

48TH ANNUAL

Bird Week

NOVEMBER 2 - 8

O'Reilly's



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



From November 2nd - 8th 2025 – 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.

Sunday 2nd November

Day 1

Forest Weekend closes, Bird Week begins

Welcome

3pm

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

3:30pm

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.

5:00pm

Welcome Drinks

6:30pm

Dinner in the in the Lost World Conference Centre

During this time we'll have some reflections on some of the key Bird Week figures we've lost this year, particularly Big Pete but also Dave Stewart and Lloyd Nielsen. Any contributions from Bird Week participants are welcome.



Hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception

Reminder to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to reception 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 to be planned.

Please check the notice board in the Discovery Centre for tour lists, information and changes.



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

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		
9am (Repeat) 2pm	OPTION 1 Wishing Tree Track (1.5km, 3hr) Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta. Downhill, some uneven surfaces, bus return from Cedar Tree.	OPTION 2 Python Rock Lookout (3km, 3hr) Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk, possibilities including Paradise Riflebird and Noisy Pitta, with potential eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the escarpment from the lookout deck	OPTION 3 Duck Creek Road (3hr) Eucalypt forest edge, seeking Red Browed Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren etc. Short walks near bus.
1pm 1:45pm	Lunch Group photo. Meet outside Discovery Centre		
2pm	OPTION 1 Wishing Tree Track (As above)	OPTION 2 Python Rock Lookout (As above)	OPTION 3 Duck Creek Road (As above)
6:30pm	Dinner in the Dining Room		
8pm	Night birding (2 hr). We shall explore a few sites along Moran's Creek in search of the Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth. Bring a torch.		

Stockyard Creek walk, Kerry Valley area bus & local excursions

6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Tree Top Walk and Botanic Gardens	
7am	Breakfast	
7:30am	Bus departs for <i>Eastern Lagoons</i> and <i>Eagleby Wetlands</i> - Lunch out, full day, short walks. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.	
8am	OPTION 1 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.	OPTION 2 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	OPTION 3 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 <i>Those not going on full day trips can collect a packed lunch from Reception</i>	
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.	
6:30pm	Midweek 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	

Wednesday 5th November

Day 4

Local trips & Antarctic Beech trek *seeking Rufous Scrub-bird and Olive Whistler*

3:30am

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

6am

Local bird walk (1½ hr) Towards Centenary Track

7am

Breakfast

8am

OPTION
1

Border Track to Antarctic Beech forest (13-16 km return). Search among the ancient Antarctic Beech forest for the elusive Rufous Scrub Bird and Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species likely to be found along the way. Lunch out. Packed lunches.

OPTION
2

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

9am

OPTION
3

Moran's Falls (2.3km downhill, bus return, 2½ hr). Rainforest walk ending at eucalypt forest and escarpment, chance of Noisy Pitta, Red-browed Treecreeper.

1pm

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

2pm

OPTION
1

Main road birding on 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.

OPTION
2

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

5:30pm

Guest Speaker

7pm

Dinner in the Dining Room

Heartbreaker Spur and beyond			
6am	Bus to Bradfield’s farm to look for lower rainforest species including Yellow Thornbill and White-eared Monarch		
7am	Breakfast		
8am	OPTION 1 Walk down Heartbreaker spur. The original route that was used to access the mountain by the O’Reilly family. The route has no constructed track and is rough underfoot. The ridge on the descent consists of dry sclerophyll forest and low-level rainforest is prevalent along Cainbale Creek, where White-eared Monarch and Little Shrike-thrush are possibilities and large figs could potentially host Wompoo Fruit-Dove and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove.		
9am	OPTION 2 West Cliffs/ Pats Bluff circuit (5km, 3½ hr, rough underfoot with some uphill sections). A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment including rainforest, eucalypts and spectacular escarpment that is home to Peregrine Falcon.	OPTION 3 Bus to the eucalyptus forest around Charlie’s Waterhole, with stops along the way in drier rainforest areas with chances of White-eared Monarch and Little-Shrike-thrush.	
1pm	Lunch <i>Those not going on full day trips can collect a packed lunch from Reception</i>		
2pm	OPTION 1 2.00pm Walk from Moonlight Crag to O’Reilly’s (4km, 3hr) Loose underfoot, uphill sections, medium fitness required) Scenic views over Lost World, a mix of sclerophyll forest, open country and rainforest.	OPTION 2 Session on wildlife photography with Glen Threlfo. Meet in the Theatrette	OPTION 3 Booyong Walk to Border Track circuit (1.5km, 2^{1/2} hours, optional extension along the Border Track). Enjoy taking time on one of the productive areas near O’Reilly’s.
6:30pm	Dinner in the Dining Room		
8:pm	Spotlighting (2 hr). Spotlighting around the upper sections of Duck Creek Road looking for Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth		

Coastal Waders tour & Mountain Birding		
6am	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	OPTION 1 Walking the Border Track towards Picnic Rock-(2½ hr, up to 4.5 km – turn around whenever you want) More stunning subtropical rainforest with a chance of finding Lyrebird.	OPTION 2 Birds and Botany walk with Bill McDonald (1-2km, 3hr)
1pm	Lunch	
2pm	OPTION 1 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.	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.
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	

Top to bottom and all around

6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Villa track area/ campground	
6am	Breakfast	
7am	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	OPTION 1 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.	OPTION 2 Tree-top Walk and botanic gardens. Spend some time on the iconic Tree-top Walk and in the regrowth rainforest in the botanic gardens, which offer good viewing conditions with a low and open canopy.
1pm	Lunch	
2pm	OPTION 1 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.	OPTION 2 Wishing Tree Track (1.5km, 3hr) Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta. Downhill, some uneven surfaces, bus return from Cedar Tree.
6:30pm	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!	

LEADERS & SPEAKERS

NOVEMBER 2 - 8



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 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.



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.

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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.



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.



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!

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Special Guest Speaker

Allison Beutel

Back from the brink

Saving the northern population of Eastern Bristlebird



Wednesday 5th November
5:30pm

With over 20 years at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Allison Beutel brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for avian conservation. A lifelong bird enthusiast, Allison began as a teenage volunteer before earning her Bachelor of Science in Zoology from the University of Queensland and later completing a Bird Biology certificate at Cornell University.

Her international experience includes time at the renowned San Diego Zoo, where she worked with endangered and exotic species, specialising in avian incubation and hand rearing. Today, as Bird Supervisor at Currumbin, Allison leads the Bird Department with a focus on breeding, husbandry, and the welfare of the Sanctuary's extensive bird collection.

A highlight of her work is managing the breeding program for the endangered Eastern Bristlebird at Currumbin and Garima Conservation Reserve — a testament to her skill and dedication to species recovery.

"I'm passionate about birds and conservation. With so many species now listed as endangered, I believe we all need to contribute to protecting our native wildlife and making a positive impact."

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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.