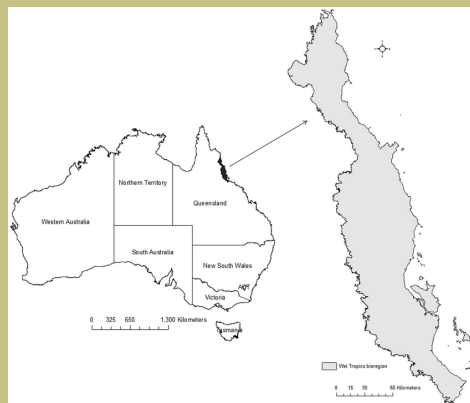




Wet Tropics & Great Barrier Reef Birding & Wildlife Tour (7 days)

The **Wet Tropics Bioregion of Queensland** in Australia is an area with an enormous diversity in habitats, and consequently: wildlife. The largest part of this Bioregion has been listed as World Heritage. There are more than 300 bird species that call the Wet Tropics home at least some time of the year. But there is also a high number of endemic mammals, reptiles and other wildlife. This tour was put together to share this mind-boggling diversity of birdlife in Tropical North Queensland when it is at its best.

Your local guide Patrick of Eyes on Wildlife Birding & Wildlife Tours (www.eyesonwildlife.com.au) has been birding for more than 30 years and has been exploring the Wet Tropics for 10 years.



Patrick has guided beginner birders as well as world top birders with lists of more than 8000 birds. You can expect to see more than 200 birds on this tour, 14 of which are endemic to the Wet Tropics Bioregion (IOC 9.2 list). Patrick shows endemic mammals and other wildlife on this tour as well and will get you up close with the birds and other creatures in small groups (max. 4 persons) in a comfortable 4WD car.

Duration: 7 days, 6 nights

Dates: **2020 - 29 June 2020 - 5 July**
 - 21 September 2020 - 27 September
 - 14 December 2020 - 20 December
2021 - 28 June - 4 July
 - 20 September - 26 September
 - 13 December - 19 December



Cost: AU\$ 4,450 per person (max. 4 pers)

Single supplement: AU\$ 950

- twin share or double room; single supplement available
- all (standard) meals included; except breakfast on day 1
- itinerary can be amended for group (4 persons) bookings

If interested in extra target species outside the Wet Tropics, Patrick might be available to guide you after this 7 day tour.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Cairns - Atherton Tableland

Pick up from your accommodation from 6.30 am for a 7.00 am start of our birding morning in the Cairns area. We visit shore and swamp, lowland rainforest and mangroves to look for birds like Mangrove Robin, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Crimson Finch, Rufous Owl, **Double-eyed Fig-parrot**, Olive-backed Sunbird, Beach Stone-Curlew, Bush Stone-Curlew, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Torresian Kingfisher, Varied Honeyeater and waders. After lunch, we will make our way down the coast for an encounter with **Southern Cassowary**. We'll arrive at our accommodation late afternoon.

Our first of two Atherton area nocturnal sessions of 2 hrs will focus on Owls and some of the local mammals.

Accommodation: The Canopy Tree Houses—www.canopytreehouses.com.au



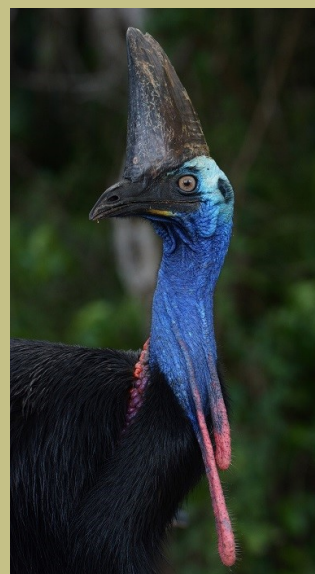
Day 2 – Atherton Tableland

Start at 7.00 am for a short birding session on the grounds around your accommodation. White-eared Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Macleay's Honeyeater, Spotted Catbird and Victoria's Riflebird are some of the birds that can be seen on the property.

After our early morning session, we'll explore the Atherton area for the remainder of the day to target some more great birds: Black-faced Monarch, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Pied Monarch, **Golden Bowerbird**, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Grey-headed Robin, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, some raptors and honeyeaters.

We finish the day with our second nocturnal sessions targeting more owls among which the endemic **Lesser Sooty Owl**, and some more mammals.

Accommodation: The Canopy Tree Houses, Tarzali (www.canopytreehouses.com.au)



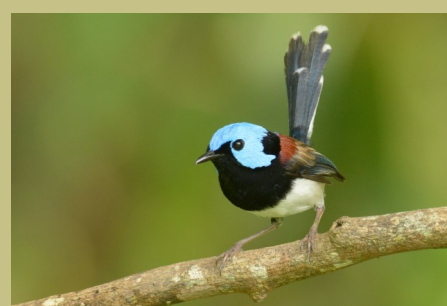
Day 3 – Atherton Tableland - Julatten

A visit to our swamps and lakes should get us **Sarus Crane and Brolga**, Spotted Harrier, Swamp Harrier, Black-shouldered Kite, Wandering Whistling Duck, Plumed Whistling Duck, Pink-eared Duck and many other birds.

We'll also focus on Wet and dry sclerophyll forest for Little Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Grey Shrike-thrush, Painted Button-quail, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Crested Shrike-tit.

Late afternoon we will target our first dry country birds: Pale-headed Rosella, Striated Pardalote, Red-backed Fairy-wren and others as we make our way to Julatten.

Accommodation: Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge - www.birdwatchers.com.au



Day 4 – Julatten - Carbine Tableland

Today we visit some more upland rainforest in the morning to track down some more Wet Tropics endemic birds: Fernwren, Chowchilla and Bridled Honeyeater. This short rainforest visit might also deliver **Blue-faced Parrot-finch** (December). We target Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher (in December) and look for **Lovely Fairy-wren**, Brown-backed Honeyeater and Scarlet Myzomela. Other targets include: Red-winged Parrot, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Noisy Friarbird, Squatter Pigeon, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Galah, Double-barred Finch and Black-throated Finch, White-browed Robin, Australian Bustard, Rufous Whistler, Red-backed Fairywren, Tawny Frogmouth, Golden-headed Cisticola, White-browed Crake, Green Pygmy-goose and many more. A third nocturnal session will focus on White-throated Nightjar and Australian Owlet Nightjar

Accommodation: Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge - www.birdwatchers.com.au



Day 5 - Julatten—Daintree

Early morning will be spent to try for Red-necked Crake and Pale-vented Bush-hen and to later mop up species in drier country or Julatten area after which we will make our way down to the coast to explore some sites between Julatten and Daintree Village to possibly pick up Spotted Whistling Duck, Brahminy Kite, and some more waders.

Late afternoon we will cross the Daintree River to visit the Daintree NP. Some of the species we can get there are: Noisy Pitta, Superb Fruit-dove, Cassowary and some other birds that frequent lowland rainforest and mangrove.

Accommodation: Red Mill House, Daintree (www.redmillhouse.com.au)



Day 6 – Daintree- Cairns

Today starts with a cruise on the Daintree River before breakfast to try for **Little Kingfisher**, **Papuan Frogmouth**, Shining Flycatcher, **Azure Kingfisher**, possibly **Great-billed Heron**, Black Bittern and a second chance at Spotted Whistling Duck. The remainder of the day will be spent making our way back to Cairns either via the Coastal route to pick up more waders and other coastal birds, or via Mareeba, Kuranda to pick up upland birds.

Accommodation: Cairns (several options)



Day 7 - Great Barrier Reef

This tour also includes a day on the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. Michaelmas Cay species can include: Greater Frigate Bird, Lesser Frigate Bird, Red-footed Booby, Brown booby, Masked Booby, Common Noddy, Black noddy and Sooty Tern to name a few.

Apart from getting these extra birds, you will also have the opportunity to enjoy our highly diverse marine life. At the right time of year (July/August) you can see Humpback Whales.

Accommodation for this night is not included in the tour cost, but can be arranged at an extra cost.



Other wildlife you are likely to see on this tour

