

Where to Find Birds in

North-east Queensland



2nd Edition 2018

Jo Wieneke &
Ian Montgomery



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Preface

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About the Authors

Jo Wieneke was a long-term resident of Northern Queensland, based in the Townsville area, but now lives at Lennox Head in northern NSW. Her childhood passion for birds in rural England was rekindled while living on Magnetic Island for over 20 years. Here she raised a family (now fledged) and developed a thorough knowledge and love of the local environment, with birds as her special passion.

She has travelled widely in Northern Queensland, first on family holidays, later assisting with fieldwork, surveys, and guiding tour. She used her experience to produce and self-publish the first edition of *Where to Find Birds in North-East Queensland* in 1992. She has also contributed numerous articles to journals and wrote and illustrated *Birds of Magnetic Island*.

Jo is a long standing member of Birdlife Australia and many conservation organisations. In 2000 she completed a Graduate Certificate in Ornithology at Charles Sturt University. For many years she worked on avian displays and taxidermy as an Honorary Associate at the Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville.

Ian Montgomery became a keen birdwatcher as a schoolboy in Ireland in the

1960s. Fond memories of that time include wildfowl and wader surveys in Dublin and Wicklow, sea-watches in Donegal, and a spell as a volunteer wader at the RSPB Minsmere reserve in Suffolk.

After studying zoology at Trinity College Dublin, he migrated to Australia in 1971 and did a Ph.D. in animal behaviour at Sydney University. Then followed a career in computing until, in 1993, he got the opportunity to combine zoology and computing in fisheries modelling and stock assessment at the Institute of Marine Ecology, Sydney University, and later with Victorian Fisheries.

He became an enthusiastic bird photographer in 1988 with the purchase of his first SLR camera and telephoto lens. He switched to digital photography in 2001 and took early retirement from James Cook University in 2003 to concentrate on bird photography. His website [<http://www.birdway.com.au/index.php>] now contains about 8000 photos of more than 1500 species of birds and his photos have been published widely.

His role in this project and his recent involvement in the digital version of the Pizzey and Knight **Field Guide to the Birds of Australia** [<http://www.gibbonmm.com.au>] reflect his current movement into digital publishing.

History

Originally published as printed book **Where to Find Birds in North-East Queensland** by Jo Wieneke:

First edition 1992

Second edition 1995

Third edition 2000

Fourth edition 2007

Fifth edition 2010

Published as an eBook by Jo Wieneke and Ian Montgomery:

First edition 2013

Second edition 2018

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Ben Blewitt for providing photos of the Sandstone Shrike-thrush. All the remaining photos are by Ian Montgomery.

Madeleine Murray painstakingly sub-edited the original digital version of the book, insisting she enjoyed doing it. She earns our enduring gratitude.

The following friends made important contributions to the original printed **Where to Find Birds in North-east Queensland**. David James made valuable comments on 'The Birds' section and provided notes on identification of the three similar *Meliphaga* honeyeaters. Ben Blewitt, Ian Boyd, Martin Cohen and Julia Cooper, Chris and Len Ezzy, Keith and Lindsay Fisher, Alan Gillanders, Bill Holmes, Jim Kinley, Chris Lucas, Lloyd Nielsen, Jon Nott, Elinor Scambler, Klaus Uhlenhut, Brian Venables

and Jon Wren all provided information and updates for the areas they know well. Brian also suggested new areas for the Cairns and Innisfail sections. The staff of QPWS in Townsville, Ingham, Cardwell and Cairns have given key support and advice.

Introduction & Using the Book

Links to Topics in this Chapter

- [Foreword to this Edition](#)
- [Getting Started](#)
- [About Main Section 1: Locations](#)
- [About Main Section 2: Birds](#)
- [Bookmarks and Searches](#)
- [External Links](#)
- [Electronic Publishing Standard](#)
- [The Region: 1 Coastal Lowlands](#)
- [The Region: 2 Islands](#)
- [The Region: 3 Ranges](#)
- [The Weather](#)
- [The Birds](#)
- [When to Come](#)
- [Camping in National Parks](#)
- [Australian Phone Numbers](#)

Foreword to this Edition

Northeastern Queensland, particularly the coast between Townsville and Cairns and its hinterland, is a popular birdwatching destination for both Australian and overseas visitors. It includes two World Heritage Areas, the Queensland Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef, and is one of the richest ornithological areas in Australia. Japanese birders have been known to fly from Tokyo to Cairns, just for a long weekend!

More than 400 species (over half the number found in mainland Australia and Tasmania), have been recorded in the wide range of habitats in the region. All these, from off-shore reefs and islands, to coastal mangroves and intertidal areas, freshwater wetlands, grassland, eucalypt woodland and both lowland and upland tropical rainforests are easily accessible and support an equally diverse range of birds.

All localities, unless mentioned, are on public land, either national park, conservation park, state forest or local council land, or can be viewed from a public road. Many national parks are being extended, amalgamated, enlarged and renamed. For this reason the maps show protected areas but not the precise boundaries between them. Links to national park websites and other areas are provided as a source of more detailed maps and the latest information on access and facilities.

This book was first published, in printed form, as **Where to Find Birds in North-east Queensland** by Jo Wieneke in 1992. Four subsequent print editions were

published between 1995 and 2010. It is now out of print. Jo Wieneke, who no longer lives in Queensland, reached an agreement with Ian Montgomery, wildlife photographer resident near Townsville, to republish the book in electronic form.

This electronic edition contains an updated and restructured version of the original text, including: more comprehensive information on races of bird species, 25 new coloured maps, nearly 200 photos of locations, 500 photos of nearly all the bird species occurring in northeastern Queensland, and photos of other wildlife.

Electronic publishing has enabled the cross-linking of locations and bird species by internal links, and the inclusion of many external links to websites on subjects such as guiding, accommodation, national parks, field guides and other references.

It would take a book many times the size of this one to cover every possible good birdwatching spot in northern Queensland. Although it was tempting to continue in all directions, limits have to be drawn. The current scope includes the approximately 700km stretch of coast between Bowen south of Townsville and Daintree north of Cairns, the Atherton Tableland west of Cairns and places further afield such as the southern Gulf of Carpentaria, and the dry country southwest of Townsville, as well as between Cairns and the Gulf.

All information was as accurate as possible at the time of publication. Nearly all the locations have been recently revisited. Contact details and website addresses have been checked. Please report any changes, inaccuracies or typographical errors to Ian Montgomery at ian@birdway.com.au.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

Getting Started

The book contains two main types of chapters: locations and bird families. The location chapters (chapters 3 to 16) tell you about routes, locations and birds found at those locations. The bird family chapters (chapters 18 to 102) describe bird species and where they are found.

To help you wander around in the book, there are numerous internal links between locations and bird species. Anywhere a bird is mentioned in a location chapter, you can move to the section on that bird species via a link, like those used to navigate between different pages in a website. Similarly all the locations mentioned in the bird chapters are linked to the corresponding location section.

These bird-location links are reciprocal, so you can jump from one section to another and back again. Internal links are indicated either by highlighting, underlining or both, depending on the software you are using. Experiment with these links, using the 'Return to Getting Started' reciprocal link to come back here: [Plumed Whistling-Duck](#) and [Hasties Swamp](#). Most reading software also has a return facility for the same purpose.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

About Main Section 1: Locations

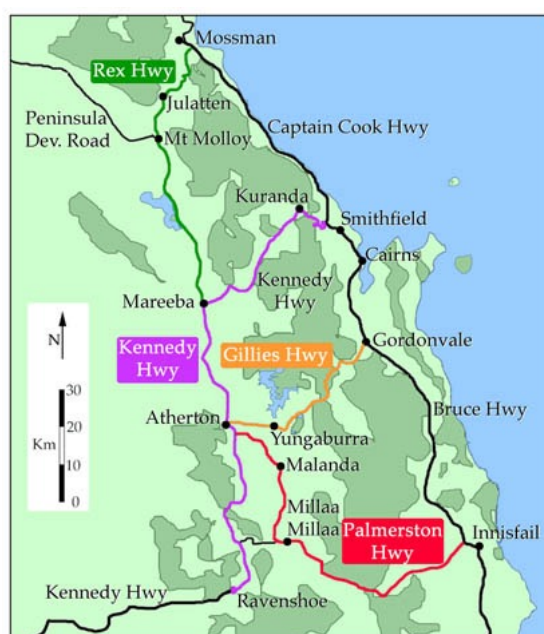
To help you plan trips, each location chapter concentrates on a route, e.g. [Cairns to Mossman and Daintree](#) (Chapter Ten) or, in the case of Townsville and Cairns, an area: Chapters [Four](#) and [Nine](#) respectively.

To find birding routes and areas use the Key Map and Links to Location Chapters (Chapter Two). The Key Map looks like the one below and is followed by a list of links to the chapters. You can see that the location chapters are ordered south to north along the coast (Chapters Four to Ten) followed by four chapters on routes to the Atherton Tableland (Chapters Twelve to Fifteen).



Key Map to Location Chapters

[Chapter Eleven](#) contains information about the Atherton Tableland and contains a map, with links, showing the four routes to it in more detail.



Highways to the Atherton Tableland

Each location chapter starts with a map followed by links to the location sections within the chapter. Each location section has a link back to the map-and-links section at the beginning of the chapter. The maps in this book are for general reference. More detailed maps are recommended in the Maps and Guides section.

To find a particular location directly, use the [Index to Location Names](#) at the end of the book. This index is included in the table of contents at the beginning of the book.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

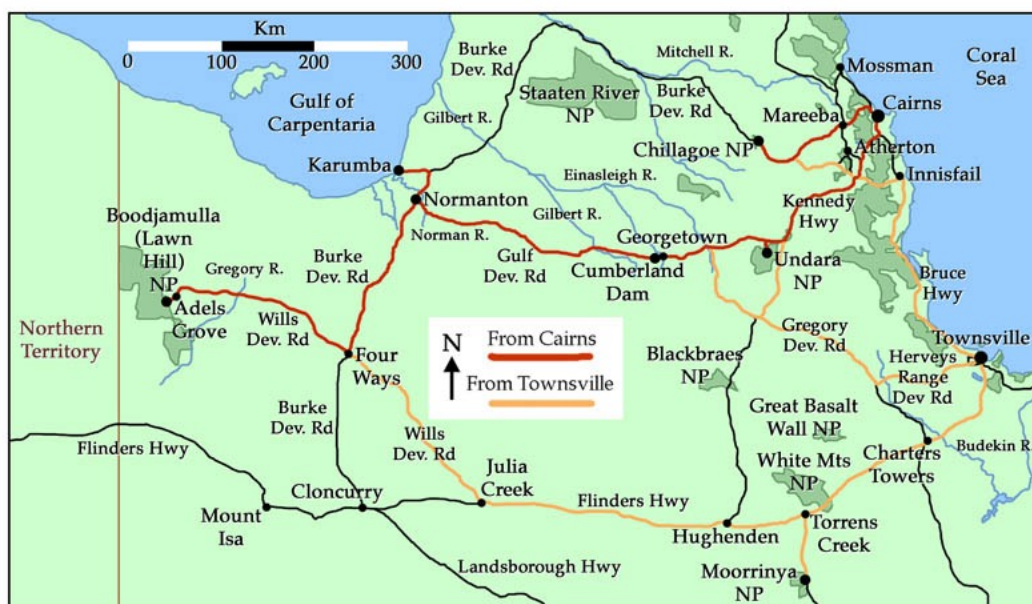
About Main Section 2: Birds

The **Main Section 2: Birds** contains a chapter for each bird family found in North-east Queensland. The bird family chapters are arranged in taxonomic sequence used by the Working List of Australian Birds of Birdlife Australia (as detailed in the section on [Taxonomy](#)).

To find bird species - other than by linking directly from locations - use the alphabetical [Index to Bird Names](#) at the end of the book, or browse the taxonomically sequenced chapters on bird families in the table of contents at the beginning of the book. The [Index to Bird Names](#) is also listed in the table of contents, as well as an [Index to Photos of Other Wildlife](#), such as reptiles and mammals.

There are also special lists at the start of **Main Section 2: Birds** linking to the [Wet Tropics Endemics](#); Species of Special Interest; and an [Alphabetic List of Bird Families](#). All these indices and lists have a link to Return to About Main Section 2: Birds to get you back here in case you wish to try them out.

Each bird family chapter starts with a list providing links to all the included species of the family concerned. These chapters include almost all the species of birds recorded in northeastern Queensland and the other locations in northern Queensland covered in Chapter 16, the [Further Afield](#) as shown below.



Map of Routes in the Further Afield Chapter

A few very rare species, such as Isabelline Wheatear recorded once in Australia at [Mount Carbine](#) and unlikely to be seen again, are omitted.



Isabelline Wheatear (Oenanthe isabellina)

Khor al-Beida, Dubai, UAE, 16 November 2014

160282 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

Bookmarks and Searches

If your software has a facility for bookmarking, a good strategy would be to bookmark [Chapter Two](#) (locations), [Chapter Seventeen](#) (lists of Wet Tropics endemics and birds of special interest), and the indices to [birds](#), [locations](#) and [photos of other wildlife](#). You can also use the Search facility to look for any word or name used in the book.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

External Links

The book is designed to be self-contained so that you can use it without an internet connection. If you do have an internet connection, there are numerous links to external websites. These are included in square brackets to distinguish them from internal links, e.g. Birdlife Northern Queensland [<http://birdlifennq.org>].

These external websites include [national parks](#), [accommodation catering for birders](#), [guiding and tours](#), tourist information centres, field guides and other references. There are links to them within location chapters where appropriate and also in the final chapter: [References, Addresses and Websites](#).

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

Electronic Publishing Standard

This book has been formatted according to the EPUB 2 (electronic publishing) cross-platform standard [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EPUB>]. Consequently it can be read in any reading software that supports the standard, including Apple iBooks, Google Play Books, and Kobo.

The standard is designed for fluid rather than fixed-layout content. It can therefore be optimised by the software for display on a particular type of device, and the reader can change various features such as fonts, font sizes, and orientation (portrait/landscape).

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

The Region: 1 Coastal Lowlands

The coastal plain extends from the extensive Townsville-Burdekin wetlands south of Townsville, to a narrow strip along the coast north of Cairns. Mangroves fringe coastal streams; larger stands are found in inlets and the Hinchinbrook Channel. Behind beaches are often areas of 'Beach Scrub' and melaleuca woodland, which is flooded during the wet season.



Coastal Strip at Oak Beach, North of Cairns

South of Townsville lie extensive areas of salt marsh, inundated only during the Wet or at very high tides. Here also are ephemeral freshwater wetlands, seasonally rich in birdlife but unfortunately becoming affected by introduced pasture grasses.



Coastal Plain near Giru, South of Townsville

In drier areas deciduous vine thicket grows in gullies on the hills and along creeks. Much of the lowland rainforest of the wetter areas has been cleared for sugar cane farms. Between Ingham and Cardwell, melaleuca and eucalypt woodland is being replaced by pine plantations, agriculture and aquaculture. The drier open eucalypt woodland is often used for cattle grazing.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

The Region: 2 Islands

[Green Island](#), [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Low Isles](#) are true coral cays.



East Magdalena Cay, Coral Sea

Most other islands, such as [Hinchinbrook](#), [Magnetic](#) and [Dunk](#), are continental islands and have similar geology and vegetation to the mainland, as well as some fringing coral reef.

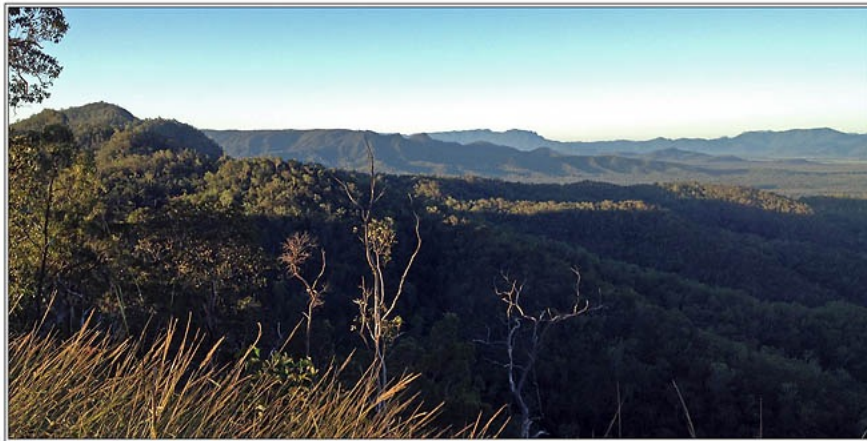


Hinchinbrook Island from North of Cardwell

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

The Region: 3 Ranges

An almost continuous series of ranges runs parallel to the coast between Mt Elliot, south of Townsville, and the Daintree River.



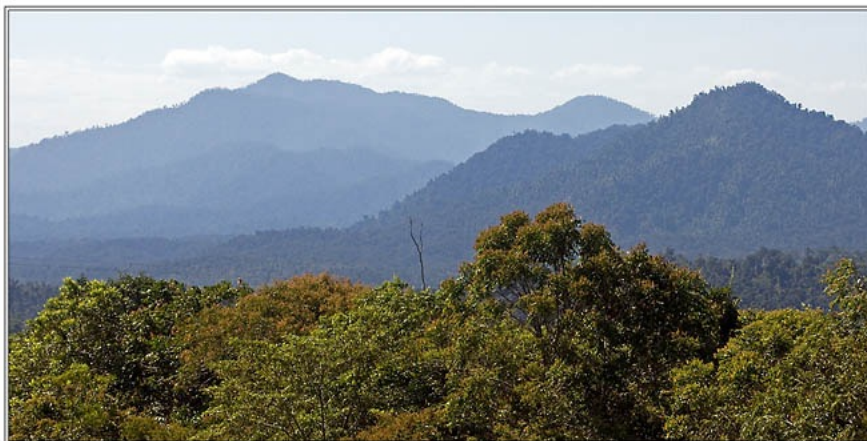
The Ranges between Ingham and Cardwell

Frequent, plentiful rainfall on the mountains has led to the growth of some of the oldest, continuously surviving rainforests on earth. Rainforest occurs on and to the east of the ranges as patches, varying in area from a few to thousands of hectares.



Rainforest near Mobo Creek, Atherton Tableland

Almost constantly wet and often covered with cloud, the two highest mountains in Queensland, Mt Bartle Frere (1657m) and Mt Bellenden Ker (1591m), are part of the Bellenden Ker Range in [Wooroonooran National Park](#).



Mount Bellender Ker (left)

On the upper western slopes of the coastal mountains, tall closed eucalypt forests grow in response to the higher rainfall. This Wet Sclerophyll forest forms a thin band

between the eucalypt-dominated vegetation of the west and the rainforest of the mountains.



Wet Sclerophyll: Grandis Forest near Paluma

About 900,000ha between Townsville and Cooktown are now protected in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, which is jointly administered by State and Commonwealth Governments through the Wet Tropics Management Authority. The Authority funds research and coordinates projects by land managers such as QPWS and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.



Atherton Tableland near Millaa Millaa

The Atherton Tableland is a plateau that lies between the Bellenden Ker Range and the Great Dividing Range. Much of its original rainforest vegetation has been cleared for agriculture and timber - the Tableland is now predominantly a farming area with pockets of remnant rainforest. Unfortunately, some farmland once used for grazing or grain crops is now being planted with sugar cane.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

The Weather

The area of this book lies within the tropics and though there are officially four seasons as in southern Australia, there are essentially only two in the north. These

are the Wet, from December to March, which is the hottest time of year and when most of the rain falls, and the Dry, from April to November, which is cooler and drier. The coolest and driest months, when frosts may occur on the Tablelands and which could possibly be termed 'winter', are June, July and August. In October and November thunderstorms start to build up before the wet season.



Enjoying the 'Winter', Bluewater, 11 August 2013

The places with the highest rainfall are Innisfail, Babinda and Tully on the coastal lowlands, and Topaz and Butchers Creek on the Tableland. These receive over three metres of rainfall per annum. The area from Bowen to Townsville records the least rainfall and in some years there is no real wet season at all. North of Ingham, rain may fall in all months.



Wet Season Rain Gauge, Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

The Birds

Over 400 species have been recorded in the area and most are seen regularly. Some species are resident, particularly in rainforest areas. These breed and are present all year round, with perhaps some local movement. Among rainforest species such as [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#) and [Macleay's Honeyeater](#), some birds may move to lower altitudes in winter.



Macleay's Honeyeater (Xanthotis macleayana)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 13 October 2003

02812 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Both dry and wet season migrants are found here. The winter visitors are mainly smaller passerines such as fantails, flycatchers and whistlers which migrate from southern states. In summer, migratory waders arrive from the northern hemisphere. Some species, e.g. [Koel](#), [Channel-billed Cuckoo](#), [Torresian \(Pied\) Imperial-Pigeon](#) and [Metallic Starling](#), come from New Guinea and Southeast Asia.



Torresian (Pied) Imperial-Pigeon (Ducula spilorrhoa)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 6 December 2007 60902 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Other species, e.g. [Black](#) and [Pied Honeyeater](#), are nomadic and arrive with no seasonal regularity, but are possibly influenced by availability of food or drier conditions inland. There is still much to be learnt about bird migration and movements in Australia.



Pied (left) and Black (right) Honeyeaters

Bowra, Southwestern Queensland, 6 November 2008 82595 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Tropical cyclones often bring [frigatebirds](#) to the mainland and surprises such as the [White Tern](#) found at Tolga on the Tableland and the [Red-footed Booby](#) at [Abergowrie State Forest](#) after Cyclone Joy in 1991.



Female Lesser Frigatebird (Fregata ariel)

Lucinda Point, Northeastern Queensland, 18 May 2011

115917 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Complete bird lists for every locality have not been included as lists for many places can be obtained from [[QPWS](#)] or [[Birdlife Northern Queensland](#)]. Finally, there is no guarantee that any bird, unless caged, will be where it is supposed to be! One of the thrills of birdwatching is the unexpected, such as the [Grass Owl](#) and the [Southern Giant-Petrel](#), both of which have appeared on [Magnetic Island](#).

If you see anything unusual, make good field notes. Report your sightings to local bird groups Birdlife Northern Queensland and Birdlife Townsville, or to Birdline North Queensland (Eremaea Birds). See the [Websites](#) page in the References section for links to these organisations.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

When to Come

April to October, which is the most popular time, sees an annual migration of birdwatchers (as well as birds) from southern states. Coming at the beginning or end of this period will give the best chance of seeing both winter and summer migrants. October, the end of the dry season, is the start of the breeding season for many passerine species, when birds are more active and vocal therefore easier to locate. This is especially noticeable in the rainforest.



Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher (Tanysiptera sylvia)

Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 9 November 2002

13228 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Despite the heat, the wet season has some advantages. These include wet season migrants such as [Torresian \(Pied\) Imperial-Pigeon](#), [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) and waders, as well as plenty of in-season tropical fruit such as mangoes and lychees.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

Camping in National Parks

Camping permits for all national parks and Forest Parks can be obtained online from [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au], by phoning 131304 – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or over the counter at national parks offices and agencies. See the [Queensland National Parks](#) page for more information. On-site self-registration was phased out in 2013.

Note: In March 2006 and February 2011 Cyclones Larry and Yasi respectively devastated large areas of forest from the coast near Cardwell, north to Innisfail and inland to parts of the Tableland. At the time of publication the rainforest is regenerating steadily and the birds have returned.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

Australian Phone Numbers

In Australia, landline phone numbers start with one of four two-digit area codes - 07 in Queensland - followed by an eight digit number: 07 9999 9999. Mobile/cell phone numbers start with 04, instead of the area code, and are usually written: 0499 999 999. To dial Australia from overseas, use the international access code defined for the country from which you are calling, then the country code for Australia, 61, followed by the number omitting the initial zero, i.e. 617 9999 9999 for landlines in

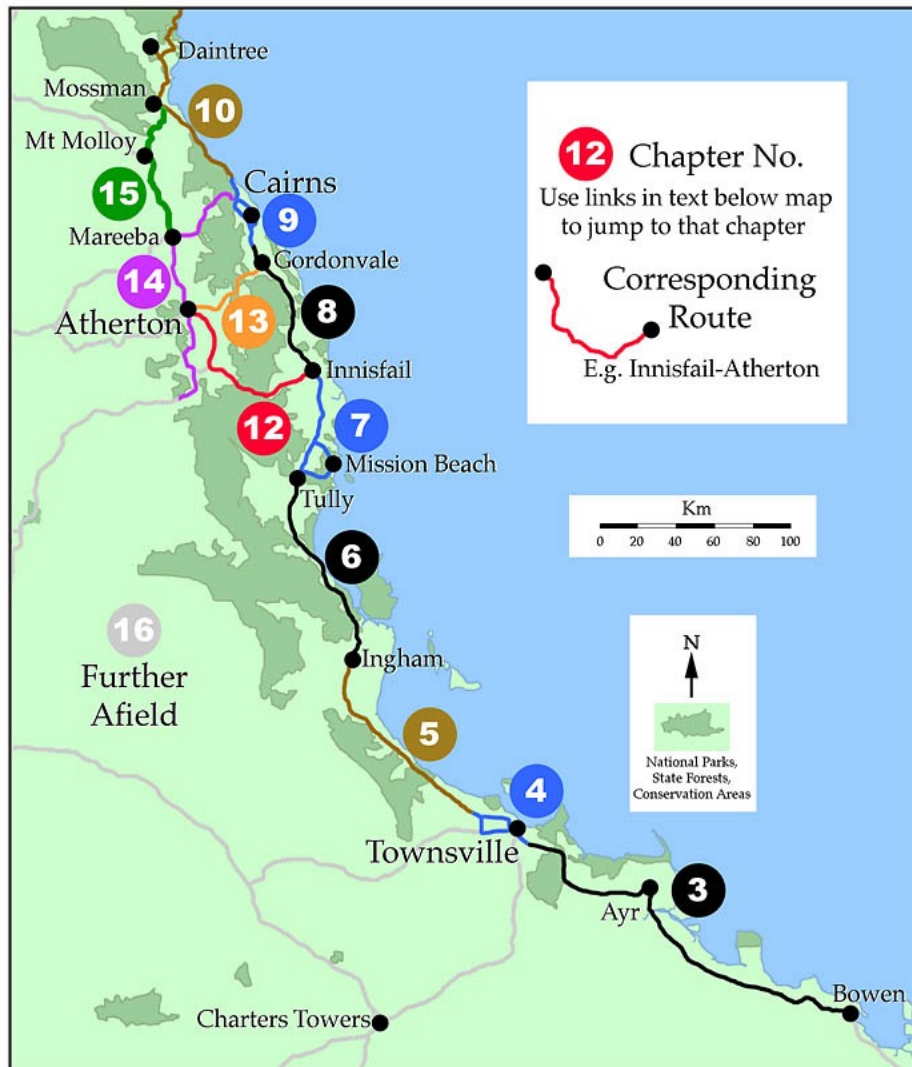
Queensland and 614 99 999 999 for mobile/cell phones anywhere in Australia.

The following special numbers may only be dialled within Australia. 1800 999 999 numbers are free from a landline but may be charged at a timed rate from mobiles. 13 99 99 and 1300 999 999 numbers are charged at a low fixed rate from landlines but, like 1800 ones, may be charged at a timed rate from mobiles. 1900 numbers are charged at a premium rate and are better avoided, as they have been used for scams.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

MAIN SECTION 1: LOCATIONS

Key Map of Locations



Key Map to Location Chapters

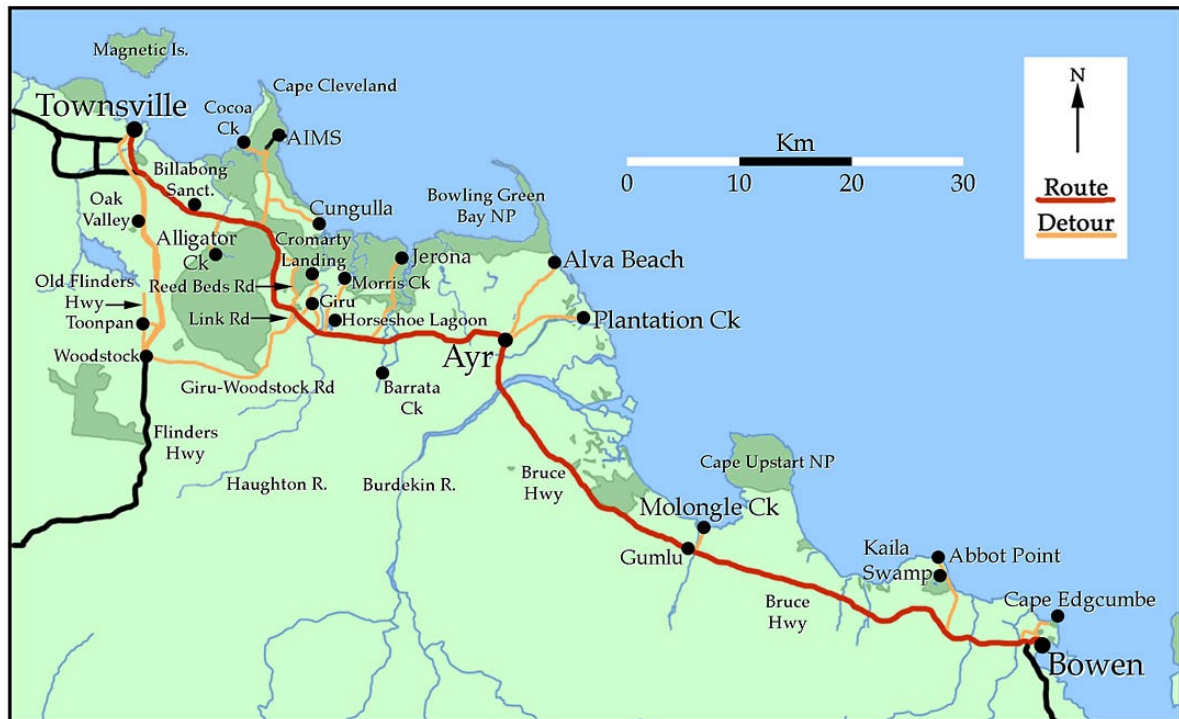
Links to Location Chapters

- [Chapter Three - Bowen to Townsville](#)
- [Chapter Four - Townsville Area](#)
- [Chapter Five - Townsville to Ingham](#)
- [Chapter Six - Ingham to Tully](#)
- [Chapter Seven - Tully to Mission Beach & Innisfail](#)
- [Chapter Eight - Innisfail to Cairns](#)
- [Chapter Nine - Cairns Area](#)
- [Chapter Ten - Cairns to Mossman & Daintree](#)

- Chapter Eleven - Routes to the Atherton Tableland
- Chapter Twelve - Innisfail to Atherton
- Chapter Thirteen - Gordonvale to Atherton
- Chapter Fourteen - Cairns to Atherton Tableland via Kennedy Highway
- Chapter Fifteen - Mareeba to Mossman
- Chapter Sixteen - Further Afield
- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**

Bowen to Townsville

Bowen to Townsville: Map & Links



- [Bowen](#)
- [Kaila Swamp](#)
- [Molongle Creek](#)
- [Ayr](#)
- [Plantation Creek](#)
- [Cape Bowling Green National Park](#)
- [Jerona Road & Hodel Road](#)
- [Giru](#)
- [Cromarty](#)
- [Cungulla](#)
- [Mt Elliot and Alligator Creek](#)
- [Billabong Sanctuary](#)
- [Woodstock](#)
- [Toonpan](#)
- [Oak Valley](#)
- [Return to Links to Location Chapters](#)

Bowen

Bowen, the oldest European settlement in North Queensland, located just a few kilometres off the Bruce Highway, offers a number of surprises for the visiting birder. Around this coastal community local habitats include mangroves, beaches, woodland and **Mullers Lagoon**, on The Soldiers Road, which supports an ever-changing population of waterbirds including [Red-necked Avocet](#) occasionally. The Bowen area is also good for dry country species like [Yellow-throated Miner](#).



Mullers Lagoon

If travelling from the north, turn left off the highway just after crossing the Don River, or take the left turn at the salt works intersection that will take you into the town. If coming from the south drive straight ahead past the salt works and follow signage into Bowen.



Looking Towards Cape Edgecumbe from Rose Bay

Cape Edgecumbe, the rocky headland northeast of the city has good walking tracks between Horseshoe Bay and Rose Bay. [Sooty Oystercatcher](#) and [Wandering Tattler](#) may be seen on the rocks. The wetland east of Horseshoe Bay Road between Rose Bay Road and Murray Bay Road is very accessible and is good for waders, rails and mangrove birds.



Wetland on Horseshoe Bay Road and Rose Bay Road

Information on local birds, including a bird list, is available from Whitsunday Regional Council [<http://www.whitsunday.qld.gov.au/local-flora-and-fauna>] and the Visitor Information Centre [http://www.tourismbowen.com.au/?page_id=8]. The Information Centre is on the Bruce Highway 7km south of the town centre, opposite the Mt Gordon Rest Area. The Rest Area is a good area for waders and [Beach Stone-](#)

curlew.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Kaila Swamp

Kaila Swamp, about 20km to the north of Bowen and on the way to the Abbot Point coal loading facility, is excellent for waterbirds after the wet season and can turn up some interesting waders during migration. Much of the swamp on the western side of the road is inaccessible, but the part on the eastern side near the bridge over the creek may be viewed from the road.



Kaila Swamp on Eastern Side of Abbot Point Road

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Molongle Creek

The **Molongle Creek** turnoff is just 2km east of Gumlu and approximately 65km northwest of Bowen. In the mangroves near the small boat harbour is an isolated population of [Yellow White-eye](#). Walk along the mangroves beside the southern side of the harbour to the beach watching for the White-eyes and other mangrove species such as [Mangrove Honeyeater](#) and [Mangrove Gerygone](#). Check the beach area for waders. The boat harbour provides access to Cape Upstart and will be busy on holiday weekends.



Molongle Creek with Cape Upstart in the Background

Note: If you have plenty of time, signs to boat ramps in North Queensland are worth following as they often lead to rewarding patches of otherwise inaccessible mangroves.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Ayr

Although most of the area has been cleared for sugar cane and other crops, the Ayr district has some good birding areas, mainly in the mangroves, salt-flats and grassland. Three species uncommon in northeastern Queensland can be found here: [Yellow White-eye](#), [Zitting Cisticola](#) and [Mangrove Golden Whistler](#).

Small populations of [Yellow White-eyes](#) are resident in mangroves, where [Mangrove Golden Whistlers](#) have also been seen. [Zitting Cisticolas](#) prefer extensive areas of short-to-medium length grassland. Check the cattle paddocks near Alva Beach - where [Double-banded Plover](#) has been recorded - and along the road to Jerona for them, as well as [Golden-Headed Cisticola](#) and possibly various [button-quails](#) and [King Quail](#). The Tourist Information Centre at Plantation Park on the highway south of the town has Ayr district road maps and a birdwatching brochure.



Alva Beach, Ayr District

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Plantation Creek

One of these areas is about 10km northeast of Ayr on **Plantation Creek**. Follow Queen Street to the block with the fire station on the right. Turn right and go 3 blocks to a 5-ways intersection. Turn left where the sign says Boat Ramp. Follow this road, Airdmillan Road, initially sealed then gravel, past the end of the cane fields, to where it crosses a grid then turns right to cross a culvert. Directly ahead, on the right-hand side of the road is a levee bank with reeds on one side and salt pan on the other as shown in the photo below. Walk along the levee bank to the creek where there is a small landing in the mangroves, though in November 2013 this landing was derelict and obscured by the mangroves.



Plantation Creek Mangroves

Here there is a chance of [Yellow White-eye](#) and [Mangrove Robin](#) but [Sacred](#) and [Collared Kingfisher](#), [Black Butcherbird](#) and [Shining Flycatcher](#) are more likely. This is on private property but the owner Mr Searle, does not mind well-behaved birders entering.



Mangroves at Plantation Creek Boat Ramp

Alternatively, continue along Airdmillan Road a further 2km to the boat ramp, which is surrounded by mangroves.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Bowling Green Bay National Park

This 55,300ha park is virtually divided into three sections; Mt Elliot, Cleveland Bay-Cape Cleveland and Bowling Green Bay. It thus includes a complete range of habitats, from rainforest on the upper ridges of Mt Elliot, down to the coastal salt pans, beaches and mangroves. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bowling-green-bay/index.html>].

Mt Elliot is accessible on foot from [Alligator Creek](#). Much of Bowling Green Bay itself is inaccessible without a boat, but the edge of it can be reached along [Jerona Road](#) and at [Cungulla](#). Cape Cleveland Road, to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, AIMS, provides access to Cleveland Bay, via the unsealed Cocoa Creek Road, and Cape Cleveland.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Jerona Road & Hodel Road

Between Ayr and Giru, **Jerona Road** and **Hodel Road-Morris Creek Road** lead

through farmland to boat ramps on mangrove-lined creeks. This farmland provides another chance of [Zitting Cisticola](#).

The turn-off to Jerona Road is 26km west of Ayr/64km southeast of Townsville, 2km west of the Barrata Creek West bridge (not to be confused with the entrance to Jerona Station, 1km east of the bridge, which is private property). Jerona Road goes 17km to the small settlement of Jerona where there is a boat ramp on Barrata Creek. Most of this road is unsealed and 4WD vehicles are recommended in the wet season. The second half of the road goes through the Barrata Creek Section of Bowling Green Bay National Park. Bush camping is permitted on the east side of the road near the creek about 2km before Jerona but there are no facilities. [http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bowling-green-bay/camping.html#barratta_creek_camping_area_bowling] Check the wetlands along Jerona Road in summer for waders such as [Marsh Sandpiper](#).



Wetlands along Jerona Road

The turnoff to Hodel Road is 7km west of the Jerona Road turnoff (33km west of Ayr/ 57km southeast of Townsville). The farmland, woodland and wetlands along the road are on private property but birding from the road can be very worthwhile. About 2km along Hodel Road, on the right is the bird hide overlooking Horseshoe Lagoon, a dry season refuge for waterbirds including [Cotton Pygmy-Goose](#).



Horseshoe Lagoon, Hodel Road

There are two reedy swamps on the right further along worth checking for waders,

pratincoles, Brolga, spoonbills, ibis and egrets. White-winged Black Tern in partial breeding plumage pass through this area usually in April. There are often Brown Songlarks in grassland along the last 2km of the road before the Morris Creek boat ramp, and Mangrove Honeyeaters in the mangroves. Picnic tables, a shelter shed and toilet are near the boat ramp. In the wet season, listen for displaying Zitting Cisticola in the grassland among the more common Golden-headed Cisticola.

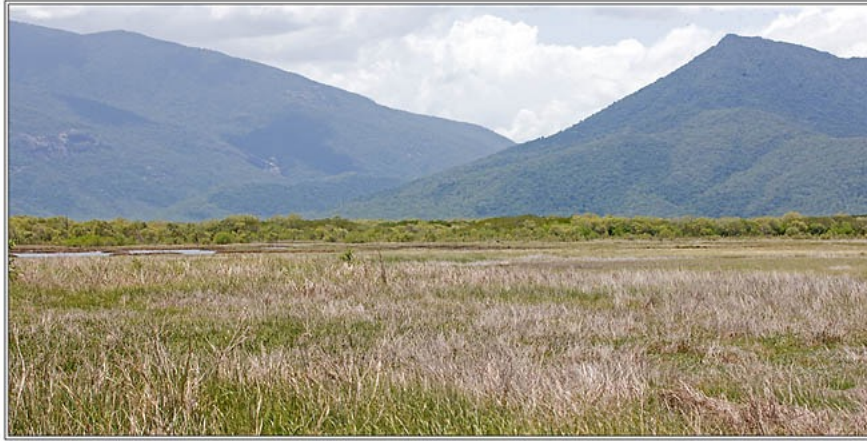


Morris Creek with Mount Elliot in the Background

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Giru

From Ayr turn right into Shirbourne Road after 35km, or from Townsville, turn left on the Giru-Woodstock Road after 51km to the small sugar town of **Giru**. Watch the powerlines for Forest Kingfisher, Red-backed Kingfisher in winter and Black-faced and White-breasted Woodswallow. Plum-headed Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Rufous-throated Honeyeater and Golden-headed Cisticola can be seen along the road. Zitting Cisticola has been recorded in this area. Crimson Finch inhabits wetter grasslands.



Zitting Cisticola Habitat at Creek near Cromarty Landing

Continue through Giru and follow the signs over the railway to the boat ramp at **Cromarty Landing** about 5km from Giru. On the way, check the wetlands on the left for waders, [Black-necked Stork](#) and other waterbirds. [Red-necked Avocet](#) has been recorded here. [Zitting Cisticolas](#) may also be near the second and last creek before the landing, and a [Great-billed Heron](#) is sometimes seen from the boat ramp. Avoid this area during weekends, as there is too much human activity.



Houghton River at Cromarty Landing

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

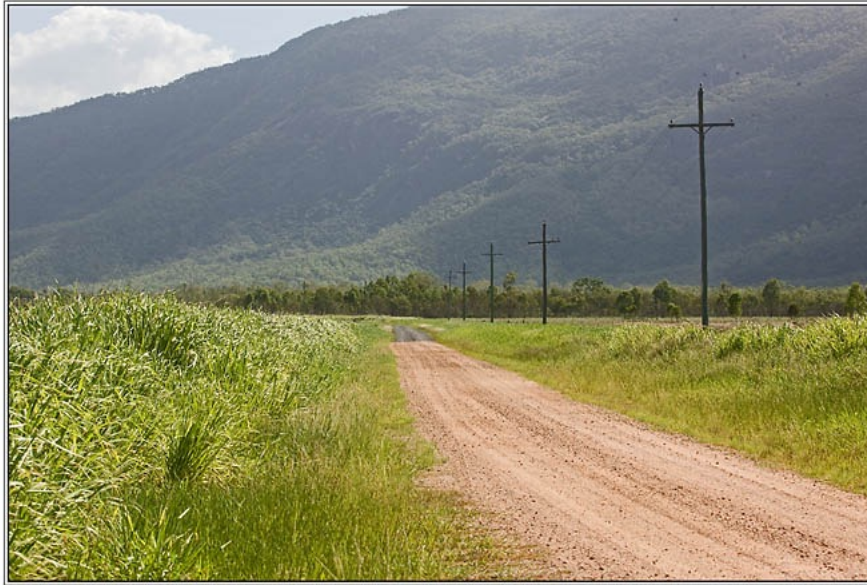
Cromarty

The **Cromarty** area is one of the more accessible parts of the coastal wetland system that extends from Many Peaks Range to Cape Upstart. [Brolgas](#) and [Magpie Geese](#) are found in large numbers (one reference estimates 10,000-12,000 Brolgas) during the Wet and through to July in some years. Much of this is private property and should be treated as such, however, a wide range of birds can be seen from the road.

In late 2009 the Government announced its financial support for the purchase of the property Wongaloo adjacent to the property Cromarty. This is being managed by the

Wetlands and Grasslands Foundation [<http://www.wetlands-grasslands.com.au>] and in the future will be open to the public. Currently, work is concentrating on habitat improvement: weed control and exclusion of tidal salt water.

Turn north at Cromarty Siding Road 9km east of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) turnoff. The forest on the left immediately after the turn usually has [White-browed Robin](#) and in winter a range of flycatchers. The open woodland on the other side of the road often has [Lemon-bellied Flycatcher](#), [cuckoo-shrikes](#) and [Blue-winged Kookaburra](#). It is usually worth stopping near the first creek for honeyeaters, kingfishers and finches.



Reed Beds Road, Cromarty

After the 'Cromarty' gate, bear left into **Reed Beds Road**. The extensive wetlands on the left are not accessible and a telescope is essential. This gravel road can be followed (check rainforest and melaleuca patches on the way), to a T-junction on Piralko Road. Turn right and then after 300m left on to the highway and after 1km turn right into **Link Road**. The wetland on your left is good for waterbirds and [Zitting Cisticola](#) has been seen from the road in the drier cattle paddock. Watch the powerlines near the cane fields for [Crimson Finch](#) and [Black-faced Woodswallow](#).



Melaleuca Patch on Reed Beds Road, Cromarty

Link Road and Reed Beds Road can also be accessed coming from Ayr. Link Road is on the north side about 1km west of the Giru-Woodstock Road while Piralko Road, leading to Reed Beds Road, is on the south side 1km past Link Road.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Cungulla

Cungulla is a small settlement on the coast near the mouth of the Haughton River. The mangroves here are a reliable site for [Mangrove Honeyeater](#) and the beach attracts a variety of waders including [Grey Plover](#). [Square-tailed Kite](#) is seen regularly here from April to November.



Cungulla Beach near the Park on Empress Close

Follow Cape Cleveland Road towards AIMS for 4km. Turn right and the township is another 10km. Turn right at the T-junction and follow the road as far as possible then walk across to the beach, or along the track behind the mangroves to a boat ramp on

the Haughton River. The mud flats are inaccessibly broad at low tide, so check the tides first if looking for waders [<http://tides.willyweather.com.au/qld/northern/townsville.html>].



Haughton River at Cunggulla from Boat Ramp

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Mount Elliot and Alligator Creek

On the Mt Elliot massif, over 1200m, lies the southernmost extension of the northern tropical rainforests. Rainforest is confined to the higher elevations, while the lower slopes are mainly open woodland, with creeks lined by riverside vine scrub. The easiest access is via the camping and picnic area at **Alligator Creek** on the northern side of the massif.

The Bottlebrush *Callistemon viminalis* that grows along Alligator Creek attracts large numbers of honeyeaters when flowering. There are usually [Scarlet](#), [White-throated](#) and [Dusky](#) Honeyeaters around the camping area, and in winter some [Lewin's Honeyeaters](#) move down from higher altitudes. [White-browed Robin](#) is resident and [White-rumped Swiftlet](#) is usually present; keep an eye out for [Azure Kingfisher](#) along the creek.



Alligator Creek near the Picnic Area

Turn south off the Bruce Highway, 28km east of Townsville/58km west of Ayr. Follow the road for 6km to the QPWS picnic and camping area on Alligator Creek. Walking tracks to Alligator Falls and Cockatoo Creek start here.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Billabong Sanctuary

Billabong Sanctuary, 18km south of Townsville, on the Bruce Highway, is a pleasant, modern-style zoo with Australian native animals. A permanent lagoon guarantees [Magpie Goose](#), [Brolga](#), [Whistling-Duck](#) and other waterbird species, even in the driest of seasons. If you have missed [Cassowary](#) everywhere else, there are several here in captivity.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Woodstock

For those with plenty of time, it is worth travelling between Giru and Townsville via **Woodstock**. Watch for [Squatter Pigeon](#), [Black-throated](#) and [Plum-headed](#) Finch, [Red-backed Kingfisher](#) (in winter) and [Crested Pigeon](#). See [Toonpan](#).



Mount Elliott from Giru-Woodstock Road

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Toonpan

From Townsville, follow the Flinders Highway towards Charters Towers and after 34km turn right at Gunnado Road which leads to the Old Flinders Highway. From [Giru](#), cross the (new) Flinders Highway at [Woodstock](#) and veer right across the railway on to the **Old Flinders Highway**, which goes north from Woodstock, past Gunnado Road after about 5km and then a further 3 or 4km to a locked gate at the start of the NQ Water catchment. This is a quiet country road where it is possible to stop, pull over to the side and birdwatch, undisturbed by too much heavy traffic.



Mt Elliott from Old Flinders Highway, Toonpan

Often found along this are: [Australian Bustard](#), [Apostlebird](#), [Black-throated](#), [Plum-headed](#) and [Double-barred](#) Finch and [Chestnut-breasted Mannikin](#), [Squatter Pigeon](#), [Rufous Songlark](#), [Rufous-throated](#) and [Bar-breasted Honeyeater](#), [Little Friarbird](#), [Black-faced Woodswallow](#) and [Grey](#) and [Pied Butcherbird](#).

In winter, check powerlines for [Red-backed Kingfisher](#), and in times of dry conditions inland, unusual species such as [Flock Bronzewing](#), [Diamond Dove](#) and [Pictorella Mannikin](#) have been recorded.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Oak Valley

Oak Valley Park between Townsville (21km) and Woodstock (24km) is a known site for [Black-throated Finch](#) and could be combined with a visit to Toonpan.

To reach the park turn west off the Flinders Highway to Oak Valley, then immediately right and left into Greta Road and, at the end of Greta Road, turn right and continue to the end of Thunderbolt Drive. Here a track leads off the turning area past the Road Ends sign into the park.



Viewing Platform in Oak Valley Park

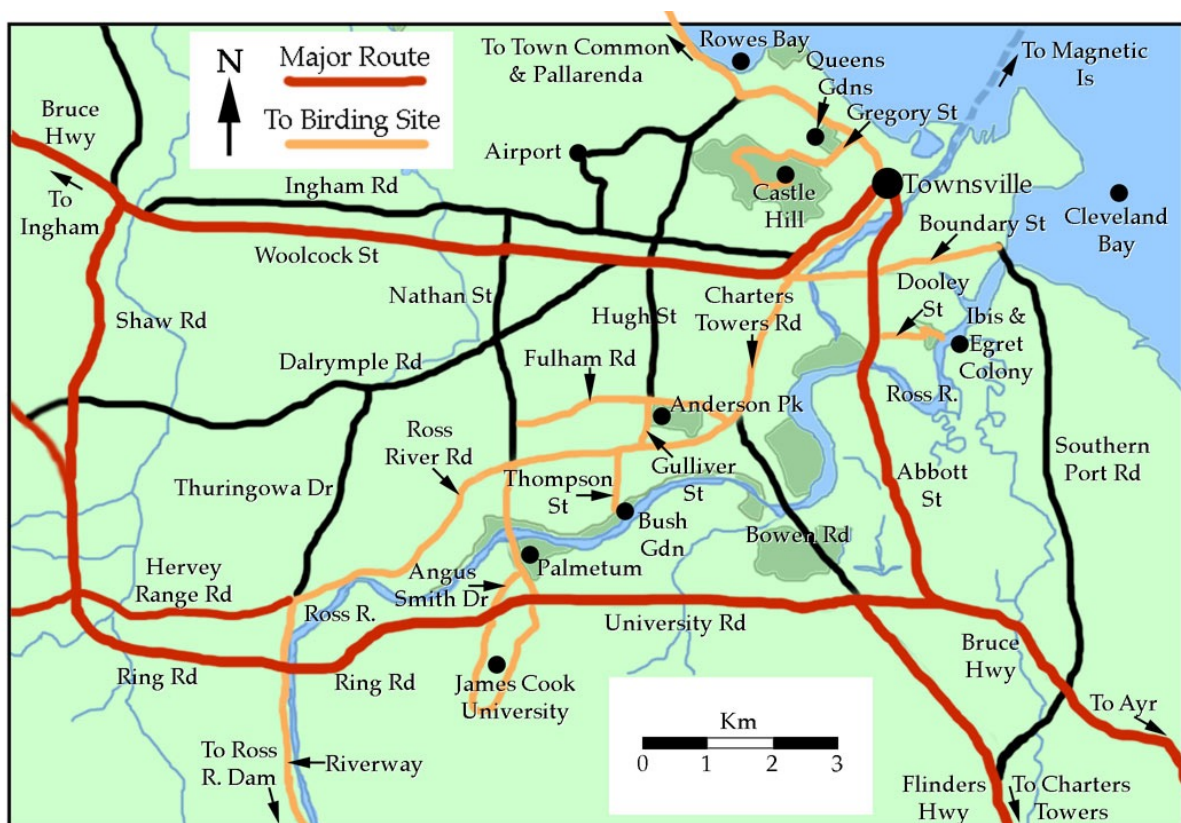
There is a 1.2km interpretive walking track through the Black-throated Finch Reserve along the seasonal Sachs Creek through grassy Poplar Gum habitat, maintained by the local Landcare group. The park has a viewing platform for birds near the creek, shelter, picnic tables and fireplace beside the creek. Other species of interest recorded here include [Squatter Pigeon](#), [Pheasant Coucal](#), [Pale-headed Rosella](#), [Lemon-bellied Flycatcher](#) and various riverine species such as honeyeaters.

- [Return to Bowen-Townsville Map & Links](#)

Townsville Area

Townsville Area: Map & Links

On this map, major routes, including those linking Townsville to other cities, are shown in red. Orange roads are convenient ways to drive to the birding sites in this chapter. Black ones are linking roads that may be useful for getting around Townsville. The sections in this chapter on [Ross River and Lake Ross](#), [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#) and [Magnetic Island](#) all have maps that are extension of this one.



In this chapter, locations are ordered by distance from the city centre starting with closer ones and finishing with outlying areas.

- [Information about Townsville](#)
- [Accommodation in Townsville](#)
- [Useful Addresses & Contacts In Townsville](#)
- [Queens Gardens](#)
- [Castle Hill](#)
- [Anderson Park](#)
- [The Palmetum](#)
- [James Cook University](#)
- [Ross River](#)

- [Lake Ross \(Ross River Dam\)](#)
- [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#)
- [Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#)
- [Magnetic Island](#)
- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Information about Townsville

Townsville, the largest provincial city in Queensland, is situated in the 'dry tropics' and receives only an average annual rainfall of 1198mm, far lower than areas to the north and south. The wet season here is unreliable and Townsville has a history of long periods of drought, followed by a series of good wet seasons. This relatively dry climate allows inland birds to reach the coast. In years with good wet seasons the wetlands of Townsville and the surrounding coastal plain attract thousands of waterfowl.



Looking Across Townsville Towards Magnetic Island

To a first-time visitor, the dry appearance of the surrounding countryside may not measure up to any pre-conceived ideas of the lush-green, tropical Queensland of tourist brochures! However, Townsville does enjoy an average of 320 days of sunshine per year, a great drawcard for those escaping a cold, wet southern winter, and has a wide range of avian habitats within easy reach of the city. The now abundant water supply and the planting of native trees in parks and suburban gardens have increased the birdlife in the city, making it an oasis in the surrounding dry woodland. Over 375 species have been recorded in, and within easy reach of, the city. From Townsville day-trips can be made to Paluma rainforest, the Burdekin wetlands or drier country near Charters Towers.



View Across Townsville from Ross Creek

Townsville is in the region where the northern and southern races of several species meet and hybridise. Most noticeably, [Masked Lapwing](#) and [Figbird](#) show wide plumage diversity.

[Little Corella](#), [Barking Owl](#), [Southern Boobook](#) and [White-gaped Honeyeater](#) are resident in the suburbs of Townsville and [Zebra Finch](#) occurs in Rowes Bay.

Accommodation in Townsville

A full range is available, from luxury hotels to backpacker hostels and everything in between. The [\[Rowes Bay Beachfront Holiday Park\]](#), formerly Rowes Bay Caravan Park, is only 2km from the [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#). During the busiest season, May to October, bookings should be made in advance online or phone 07 4771 3576.

There are several [Great Bowerbird](#) bowers within a few hundred metres of the Caravan Park. Listen for the hissing, clucking and chattering calls of these birds, which are most active from July until January. [Varied Honeyeater](#) occurs in the mangroves at the eastern end of Rowes Bay.

Camping is allowed free for limited periods of time at a number of places north of Townsville: see the list in the section on the [Northern Beaches](#) in the next chapter.

Useful Addresses & Contacts In Townsville

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) no longer has an office or agency in Townsville. See the section on [Queensland National Parks](#) for website links and phone number.

Birdlife Townsville holds monthly meetings and outings, including a guided walk at the Townsville Common on the first Sunday of each month. Visitors welcome. For information: [\[http://www.birdlifetownsville.org.au\]](http://www.birdlifetownsville.org.au) [\[contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au\]](mailto:contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au), PO Box 1168, Aitkenvale, Qld 4814. Booklets on birding in the Townsville area can be downloaded from [\[http://www.birdlifetownsville.org.au/Lists.html\]](http://www.birdlifetownsville.org.au/Lists.html).

[\[Mary Who Bookshop\]](#), 414 Flinders Street, stocks a good range of natural history books.

The [\[North Queensland Conservation Council\]](#) has information on local conservation issues.

The [\[Cotters Market\]](#) is held in Flinders Mall every Sunday morning from 8:30am-1pm. Good for locally grown produce and crafts.

The [\[Reef HQ\]](#) complex in Flinders Street East has the largest living coral reef aquarium in the world. The Omnimax Theatre, the Museum of Tropical Queensland and the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre are also here.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Queens Gardens

Queens Gardens is the oldest Botanic Garden in Townsville, with some huge old trees. In the 'rainforest' section on the Gregory Street side, there is the very slight chance of a [Rufous Owl](#). A bulky, stick nest of a [Whistling Kite](#) is at the top of a Hoop Pine. A [Great Bowerbird](#) has a bower here but moves it annually. Listen for characteristic whistling, hissing and chattering calls to locate it.

Queens Gardens is on the corner of Gregory and Paxton Streets, North Ward, just north of the city centre.



Rainforest Section of Queen's Gardens

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Castle Hill

Castle Hill is a good vantage point to see the layout of Townsville and surrounding areas. It is accessible via Gregory Street, North Ward and Castle Hill Road which leads to a car park near the summit.



Castle Hill from Queen's Gardens

In the vicinity of the hill, keep an eye out for [Peregrine Falcon](#) which nests there regularly.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Anderson Park

Anderson Park is a large suburban park planted as a botanic garden, with both exotic and native species. Check the ponds for [White-browed Crakes](#). Follow Fulham Road to Gulliver Street and turn south. The entrance is the first gateway on the left.



Anderson Park, Townsville

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

The Palmetum

The Palmetum has the largest collection of palms in Australia and a rainforest section mainly of very old rain trees *Pithecolobium saman*. The wide range of bush and water birds would make this a good spot for a visitor with limited time in Townsville. A pamphlet produced by BirdLife Townsville – ‘Birds of the Palmetum’ is available from the [[Tumbetin Tea Rooms](#)].



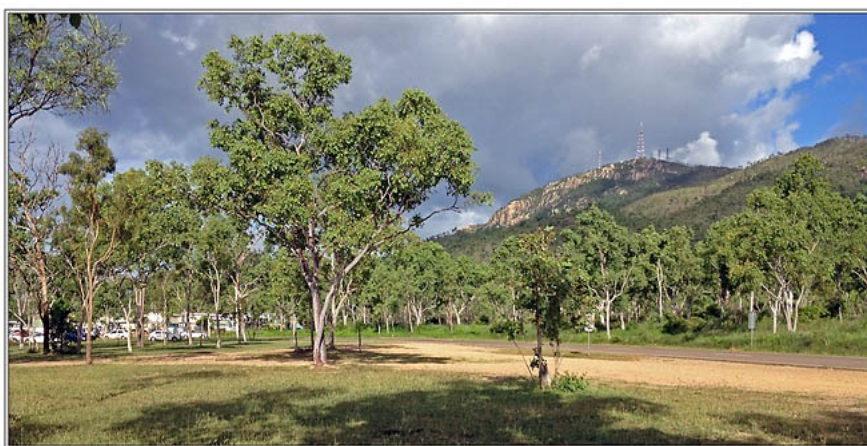
The Lagoon in the Palmetum with Mt Stuart in the Background

[Azure Kingfishers](#) occur along Jensens Creek and sometimes on the Lagoon. [Oriental Cuckoos](#) inhabits the rainforest area in summer.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

James Cook University

Continue beyond the Palmetum to the roundabout and turn right into Angus Smith Drive to reach **James Cook University**, which is located in open eucalypt woodland between the Ross River and the foothills of Mt Stuart.



JCU Campus with Mt Stewart in the Background

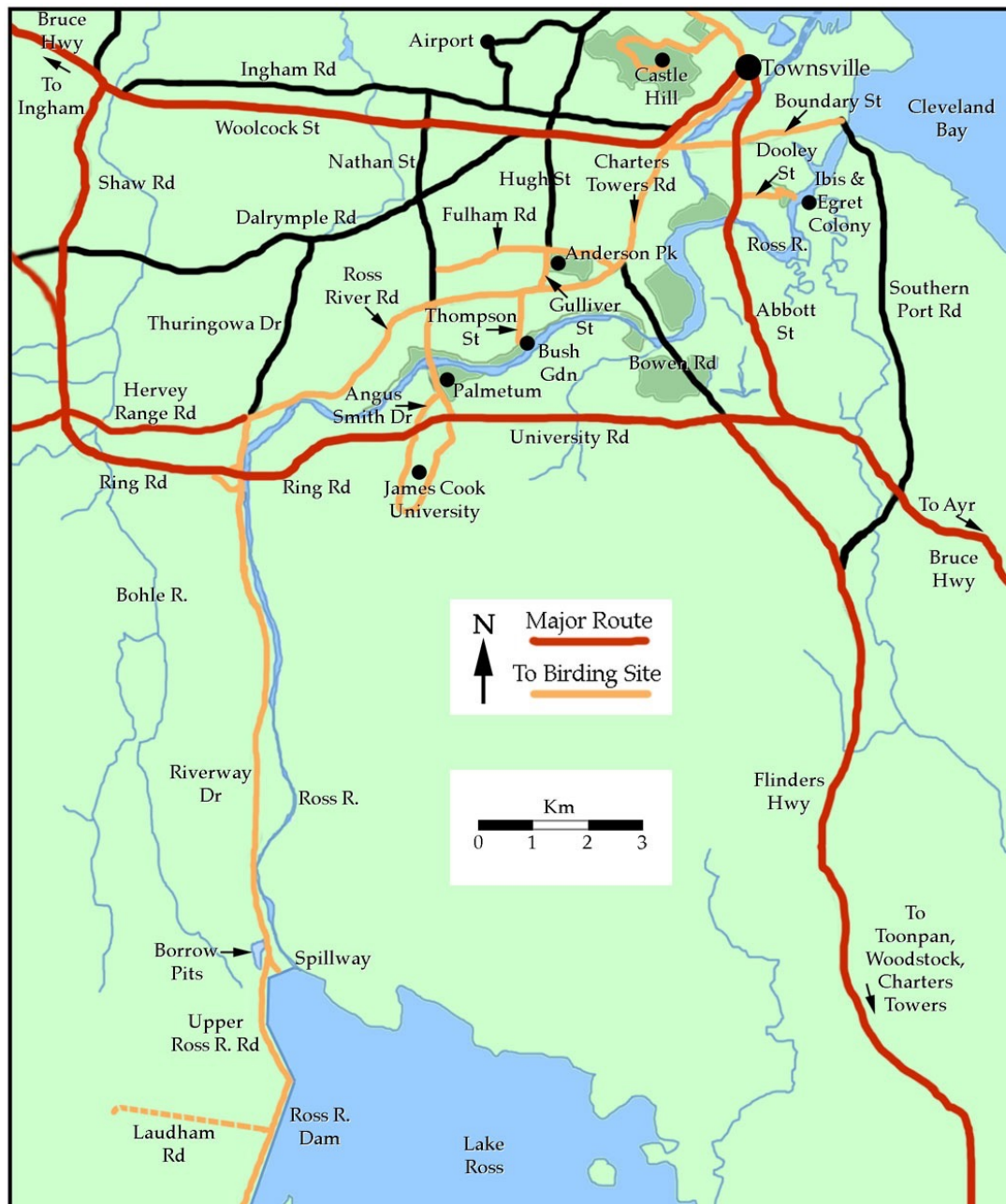
It attracts a large variety of birds. Look for the bowers of [Great Bowerbirds](#). [Bush Stone-curlews](#) breed here. [Pale-headed Rosella](#) and a variety of honeyeaters are common around the campus.

The University Library is open to the public for reference.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Ross River

The **Ross River** may be followed for many kilometres, from its mouth in Cleveland Bay, through the city to the Ross River Dam.



On **Cleveland Bay**, to the southeast of the river mouth, a broad expanse of tidal mud and sand flats supports a large number of migratory waders. From the end of Boundary Street many of these across the river on the southeastern side can be identified by using a powerful telescope. Visitors with a boat or canoe can reach this

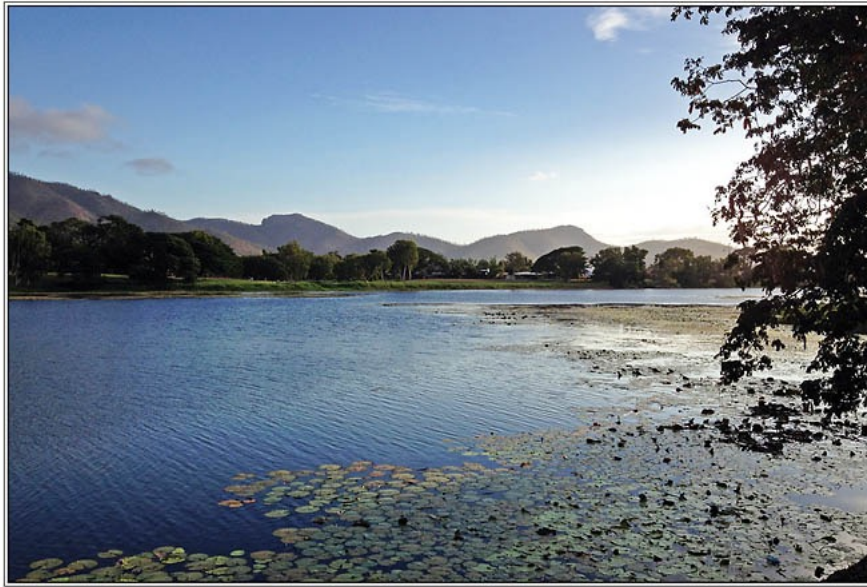
area by crossing Ross River at its mouth or from upstream at the two national park boat ramps. These are reached via Doorey Street, which turns left off Railway Avenue coming from the city, just before the bridge over Ross River. [Mangrove Gerygones](#) live in the mangroves near the boat ramps.



Boat Ramp on Ross River near Doorey Street

On the south bank of the river, opposite the boat ramp, is an [Australian White Ibis](#) colony, possibly the largest in tropical Australia, with over 600 nests. [Great](#), [Intermediate](#), [Little](#) and [Cattle](#) Egrets and [Royal Spoonbills](#) also breed here. The bird colony merges into a Black Flying Fox colony and breeding egrets and flying foxes with young often share the same tree. Visit at dusk. In summer the sight of thousands of ibis and egrets returning to roost, then thousands of Black and sometimes Little Red Flying Foxes leaving for their nocturnal feeding, is unforgettable. A [Ruff](#) has been recorded at the mouth of the river.

The tidal reaches of the river, which extend to Aplins Weir, just east of the Bush Garden, support flocks of [Little Black Cormorants](#) and some waders. Above the weir, quiet stretches of water shelter [Pacific Black Ducks](#), [Hardheads](#), [Jacanas](#) and [Darters](#). A canoe trip is most rewarding on the river, where you can watch [Yellow](#), [White-gaped](#), [Brown](#) and [Brown-backed](#) Honeyeaters, [Mangrove](#) and [Large-billed](#) Gerygones, [Nankeen Night Herons](#), [Forest Kingfishers](#) and [Rainbow Bee-eaters](#) in the trees along the banks. [Australian Painted Snipe](#) has been recorded here.



Ross River from near the Bush Garden

The **Bush Garden**, on the northern bank of the river at the end of Thompson St, off Ross River Road, is easily accessible. Members of BirdLife Townsville have recorded more than 130 species of waterbirds and bush birds on regular counts. These include breeding [Pacific Baza](#), [Crimson Finch](#), [White-browed Crake](#) and [Rufous-throated Honeyeater](#).



The Bush Garden on Ross River

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Lake Ross (Ross River Dam)

Lake Ross (Ross River Dam), some 25km from the city, is a large body of permanent water. Towards the end of the dry season, it attracts thousands of birds including [Black Swan](#), [Cotton Pygmy Goose](#), [Hardhead](#), [Great Crested Grebe](#), [Great](#) and [Pied](#) Cormorants and [Eurasian Coot](#). Good numbers of [Freckled](#) and [Pink-eared](#) Ducks were recorded here in 2013.



Ross River Dam near the Spillway

Waterbirds can be seen from the dam wall. Note that boat tours on the lake with Pop Sullivan Tours no longer take place.



The Borrow Pits at the Very Start of the Wet Season

The **Borrow Pits** across the road from the river and picnic area are more accessible and often have large numbers of waterbirds when every other swamp in the district is dry.

[Australian Bustard](#) is frequently present on the grasslands below the dam wall along Upper Ross River Road and along the unsealed Laudham Road. They may be seen displaying when rainfall makes conditions suitable for breeding. Keep an eye out for [Black-throated Finch](#).



Australian Bustard (Ardeotis australis)

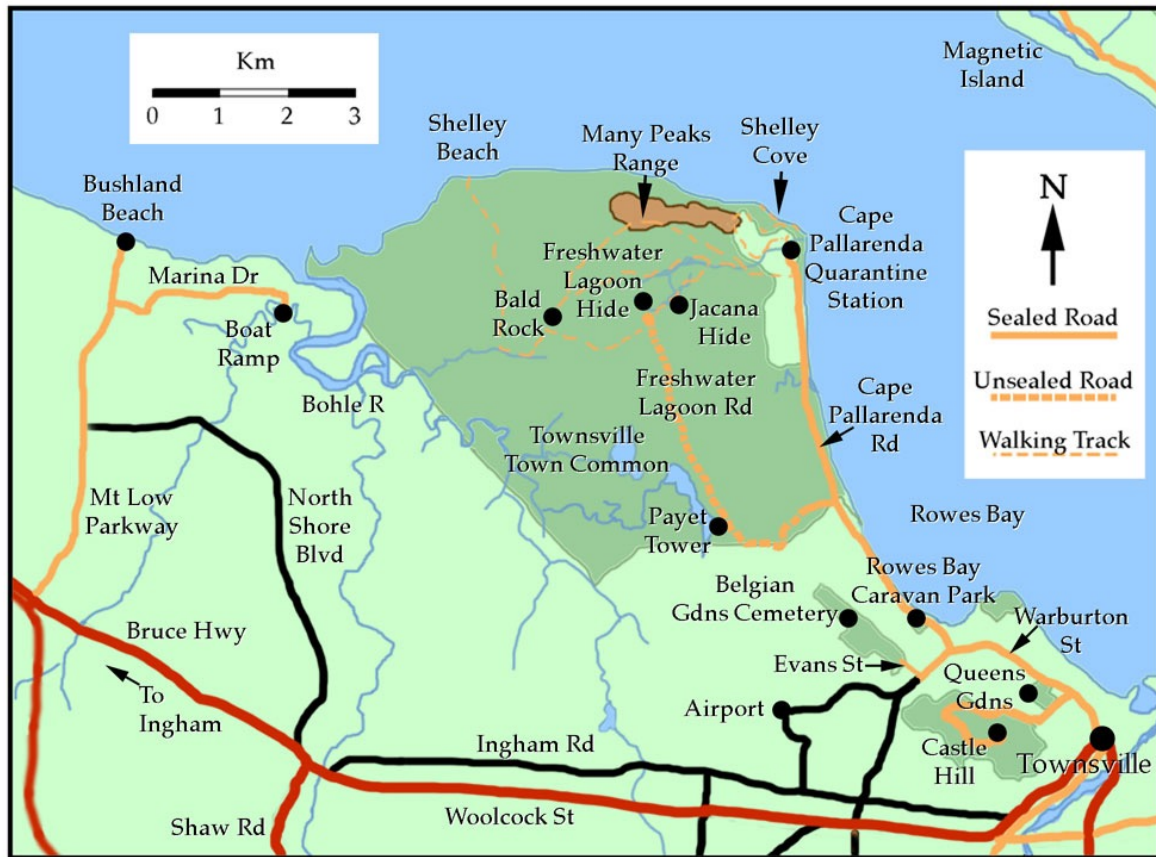
Ross River Dam, Northeastern Queensland, 15 March 2010 99085 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Townsville Common Conservation Park

Only 6.4km from the centre of the city, 'The Common', as it is locally known, covers 3245ha of the Townsville-Burdekin wetlands and is famous for its waterbirds. The park is situated between the Bohle River and Many Peaks Range. It includes a wide variety of vegetation types: mangroves, salt marsh, sedge land, grassland, open eucalypt woodland and, in the gullies of Many Peaks Range, semi-deciduous vine thicket. These support a correspondingly diverse bird population. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/townsville/index.html>].

The map below includes [Bushland Beach](#) which is covered in the next chapter on [Townsville to Ingham](#).



Waterbirds are most prolific after a good wet season. From April onwards, as wetlands further inland start to dry up, ducks, egrets, ibis, spoonbills, Black-winged Stilts, Masked Lapwings, cormorants, Darters, White-necked Herons, Black-necked Storks, and Brolgas congregate on the contracting swamps and deeper waterholes. Magpie Geese are breeding residents on the Common but numbers then increase to tens of thousands. Unusual species such as Oriental Pratincole, Pied Heron and Double-banded Plover also turn up.

Swamp Harrier, Brown Falcon, Whistling and Black Kite are common species over the grassland, and Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Wedge-tailed Eagle are usually present. Red-backed Fairy-wren, Double-barred and Zebra Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin and Golden-headed Cisticola are found in the taller grasses. A changing population of birds is found in the woodland, including Rainbow Bee-eater, depending on the season and availability of food.



Sand Goanna (Varanus gouldii)

Kununurra, NW Western Australia, 19 September 2009

93471 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Sand Goanna](#)]

From the park gates, a gravel road runs for 3km to Freshwater Lagoon. The **Forest Walk** follows the edge of a billabong fringed with melaleucas, eucalypts and acacias and is a good spot for trillers and honeyeaters. The large white objects carried by [Torresian Crows](#) are golf balls, stolen from the adjoining golf course! In the early morning and late afternoon, watch for Agile Wallaby, Dingo and Sand Goanna along the road. Unfortunately feral pigs are also here.



Agile Wallaby (Macropus agilis)

Alligator Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 20 June 2004

07646 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Agile Wallaby](#)]

The **Payet Tower**, named in memory of prominent local birder Jock Payet, is an elevated hide at the edge of melaleuca woodland and overlooks an expanse of grassland and swamps. Here, locally uncommon species such as [Pink-eared](#) and [Freckled](#) Duck have been recorded. From late October to November, scan the grassland carefully for [Australian Bustards](#) that may be engaging in courtship display. [Brown-backed Honeyeater](#) nests near the hide in the wet season and [Red-backed Fairy-wren](#) is sometimes in the tall grass close to the hide.



Town Common from the Observation Tower

The **Freshwater Lagoon Hide** and **Jacana Hide** give good views of Freshwater Lagoon and the ever-changing waterbird population. [Australian Reed-Warblers](#) are often vocal in the tall *Typha* reeds near the Jacana Hide. The Lagoon Hide is usually home to numerous tree frogs, geckos and the occasional Spotted Python.



Green Tree Frog (Litoria caerulea)

Lockhart River, Cape York, 27 December 2003

04426 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Green Tree Frog](#)]

A man-made wetland area (at present known as the Compensatory Habitat) is on the left at the start of the Freshwater Trail to Bald Rock. This is becoming colonised by vegetation and every year there are increasing numbers of waterbirds. A scope is handy as at present the only viewing spot is by the track.

Three walking tracks start at the western end of the Freshwater trail: the Shelly Beach Trail and the Many Peaks Track and the Lagoon Trail. The latter two continue to the Cape Pallarenda Road. Another bird hide is 450m along the combined start of the Many Peaks Track and Lagoon Trail leading under **Bald Rock**. The Many Peaks Track leads up to Mt Marlow with spectacular views over the wetlands, coastline and Magnetic Island. The walk takes about four-and-a-half hours. Carry water and mosquito repellent with you.



Townsville Common and Castle Hill from Bald Rock

The Common gate is open from 6:30am-6:30pm daily.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park

This park adjoins the Common and includes the site of the old quarantine station, established in the early 1900s. There is a small historical museum in one of the old buildings. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/cape-pallarenda/index.html>].



The Old Quarantine Station, Cape Pallarenda

Walking tracks lead up to World War II gun emplacements and on to the **Graves**

Circuit through an area of woodland and vine thicket with [Olive-backed Sunbird](#), [Little Shrike-thrush](#) and a variety species of bush birds. From June through to October watch for nesting [Brahminy Kite](#). [Torresian Imperial-Pigeon](#) is here from November-March. [Brush-turkeys](#) scavenge around the picnic area and have built several mounds nearby. [Tawny Frogmouths](#) roost and nest in melaleucas close to the road.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Magnetic Island

Only ten kilometres from the mainland and officially a suburb of Townsville, this continental island is part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, relatively undeveloped and has its own wide range of habitats. It is a good place for a holiday or a day visit.



Settlement is concentrated in small areas and just over fifty per cent of the island is national park. This is mostly in the rugged interior, where the highest peak, Mt Cook, rises to 506m. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/magnetic-island/index.html>].



Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus)

Magnetic Island, NE Queensland, 20 June 2017

182212 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Koala](#)]

Twenty-two kilometres of walking tracks, described in the QPWS brochure, lead through a variety of vegetation to lookouts with spectacular views and to beautiful sandy beaches with granite-boulder headlands. Koalas often sleep during the day in trees along The Forts Track and the Horseshoe Bay-Radical Bay track. Rock Wallabies are active in early morning and late afternoon.



Allied Rock Wallaby (Petrogale assimilis)

Alligator Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 21 April 2013

153359 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Allied Rock Wallaby](#)]

Although it is close to the mainland, there are a few marked differences in birdlife, the most noticeable being the scarcity of honeyeaters (apart from [Helmeted Friarbird](#)) and the larger numbers of [Pied Currawongs](#). The [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#), resident in all bays, is seldom recorded on the adjacent mainland.

Bush Stone-curlew, Olive-backed Sunbird, Rainbow Lorikeet, Helmeted Friarbird and Figbird are abundant around the houses and gardens in the four largest bays. Both Blue-winged and Laughing Kookaburra are found on the island, occupying slightly different habitats.

At low tide, on the exposed reef flats, look for Eastern Reef Egret and Striated Heron. Osprey, Brahminy Kite and White-bellied Sea-Eagle nest around the island. One Osprey nest, on a prominent rock in Balding Bay, has been in use for over 30 years. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo occurs on the island and there is an introduced population of Galah.



Horseshoe Bay Lagoon, Magnetic Island

The **Horseshoe Bay Lagoon Conservation Park**, surrounded by huge melaleucas and often covered with beautiful blue water lilies, has a variety of waterbird species, including Purple Swamphen and Dusky Moorhen, especially towards the end of the year.

The mangrove areas at **Cockle Bay and Bolger Bay** on the western side of the island have an assortment of migratory waders in the summer, with usually a few over-wintering. Grey-tailed Tattler is the most numerous wader. Follow the road from Picnic Bay, and just past where rock has been quarried, take the second track on the left, into the mangroves. Turn right when you reach the beach. Mangrove and Large-billed Gerygone are often here and Brahminy Kite nests in the mangroves in winter.

The closed forest along **Gustav Creek**, at the Nelly Bay end of the Nelly Bay to Arcadia walking track in the national park, is a good spot during winter for Rufous and Grey Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher and Spectacled Monarch. White-eared Monarch, often difficult to see in the higher canopy in most of its range, is relatively easy to find here. These species will often be in a small foraging flock with Rufous Whistler, Varied Triller and Little Shrike-thrush. Listen for a Noisy Pitta scratching in the leaf litter.



Magnetic Island from Cape Pallarenda

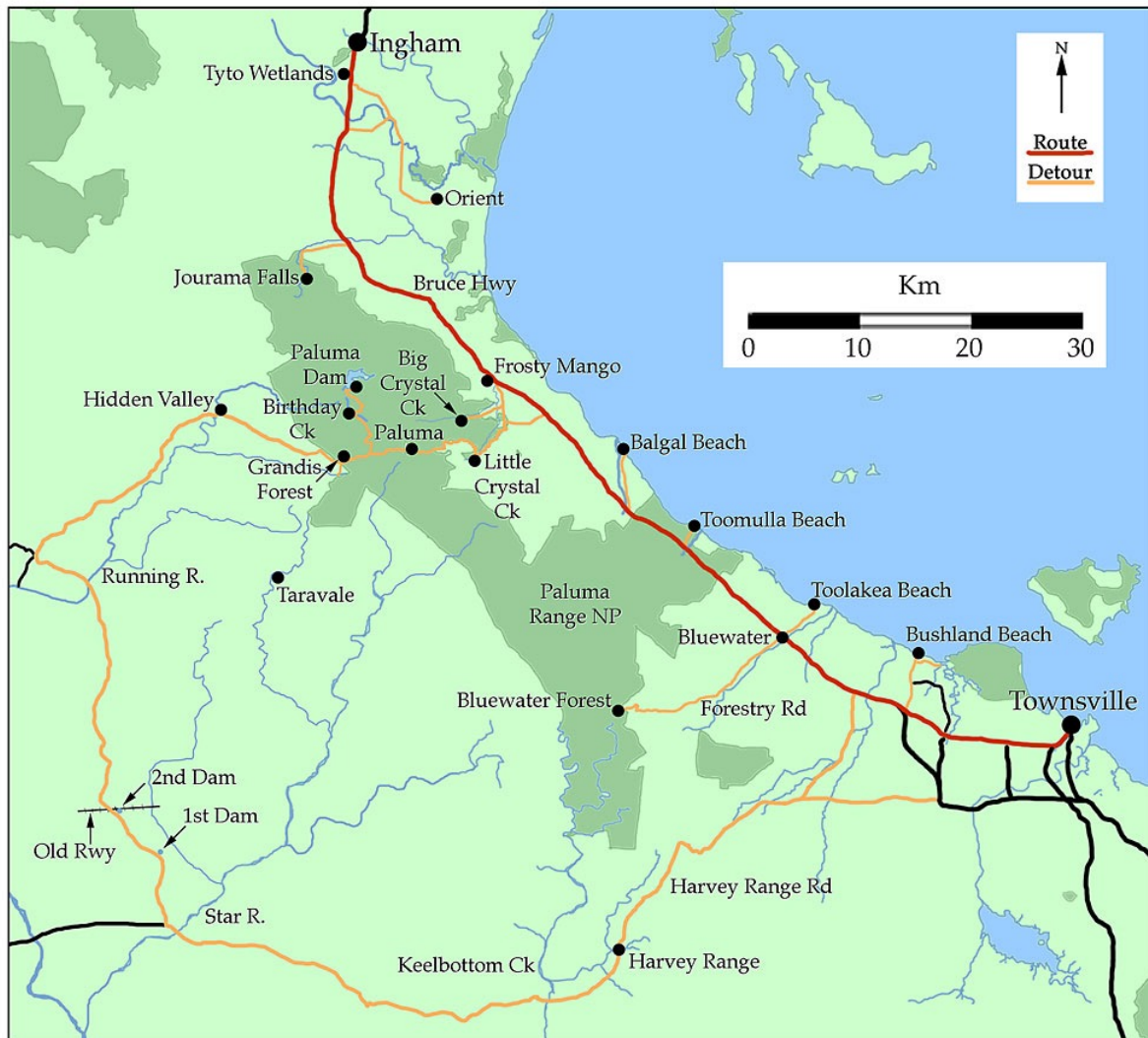
Passenger ferries run regularly throughout the day from the terminal at the Breakwater in Townsville: 07 4726 0800; [<http://www.sealinkqld.com.au>]. A barge for freight, cars and passengers also runs from the terminal on the south bank of Ross Creek, opposite the passenger ferry. Bookings: 07 4796 9300, [<http://www.fantaseacruisingmagnetic.com.au>]. From the ferries in winter watch for **Brown Booby** and the rare sighting of a **Red-footed Booby**.

On the island, a bus service runs between bays, and Mini-Mokes [<http://www.miwheels.com.au>] and bicycles are for hire. There are hotels, holiday resorts, backpacker hostels and resorts (some allow camping), holiday flats and houses.

- [Return to Townsville Area Map & Links](#)

Townsville to Ingham

Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links



More detailed regions of this area are included in the sections on [Paluma Range National Park](#) and [The Orient](#).

- [Northern Beaches](#)
- [Bushland Beach](#)
- [Toolakea Beach](#)
- [Toomulla Beach](#)
- [Balgol Beach](#)
- [Paluma Range National Park](#)
- [Bluewater Forest](#)
- [Big Crystal Creek](#)
- [Little Crystal Creek](#)
- [Paluma](#)
- [Paluma Dam](#)
- [Birthday Creek Falls](#)
- [Grandis Forest](#)
- [Mt Zero and Taravale](#)
- [Frosty Mango](#)

- [Jourama Falls](#)
- [The Orient](#)
- [Tyto Wetlands](#)
- [The Inland Route to Paluma](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Northern Beaches

The Northern Beaches comprise a series of beaches to the north of the city. Some of these are off the beaten track and are rewarding areas for birdwatchers. All are near the mouths of mangrove-lined creeks. Behind the beaches are areas of 'dune scrub' and melaleucas. Human settlement varies from a few 'beach huts' for fishermen, to rapidly expanding beach suburbia.

Free camping is allowed for limited periods at the following locations:

- Saunders Beach, northern end of the esplanade (24 hours)
- Bluewater, corner of Bruce Highway and Forestry Road (24 hours)
- Toomulla, Herald Street (48 hours)
- Rollingstone, Rollingstone Street (48 hours)
- Balgal Beach, northern end of Marlin Street (48 hours).



Fern-leaved Grevillea (Grevillea pteridifolia) with Yellow-spotted Honeyeater
 30 June 2005, Bluewater Creek, NE Queensland 16673 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The orange flowering grevillea growing along the highway, very noticeable in winter, is the Fern-leaved Grevillea, *Grevillea pteridifolia*.

- Return to [Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)
- Return to [Accommodation in Townsville](#)

Bushland Beach

To reach **Bushland Beach** from Townsville, turn north off Woolcock Street at the traffic lights 17km northwest of Townsville at Mt Low Parkway or take the Bushland Beach exit off the Ring Road just before it merges with Woolcock Street.



Bushland Beach Looking Towards the Mouth of the Bohle River

At the mouth of the Bohle River, the beach has extensive sand and mud flats that support large numbers of waders. During spring and autumn migrations, there may be hundreds of [Great Knots](#) and [Greater](#) and [Lesser](#) Sand Plovers, many in breeding plumage.

In the mangroves, near the boat ramp south of the settlement, are Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo, [Black Butcherbird](#), [Mangrove Robin](#), [Varied Honeyeater](#) and [Mangrove](#) and [Large-billed](#) Gerygone.

- Return to [Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#).
- Bushland Beach is also included in the [map of Townsville Common Conservation Park](#).

Toolakea Beach

Toolakea Beach is a well-established beach community, at the mouth of Bluewater Creek.



Late Afternoon at Toolakea Beach

There are usually a few waders here in summer and the chance of [Great-billed Heron](#) and [Little Kingfisher](#) in the mangroves. There is no camping area here, but 24-hour camping is allowed beside Bluewater Creek on the corner of the Bruce Highway and Forestry Road.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Toomulla Beach

Toomulla Beach, only a few kilometres from the highway, has a very pleasant, shady, 48-hour camping area.



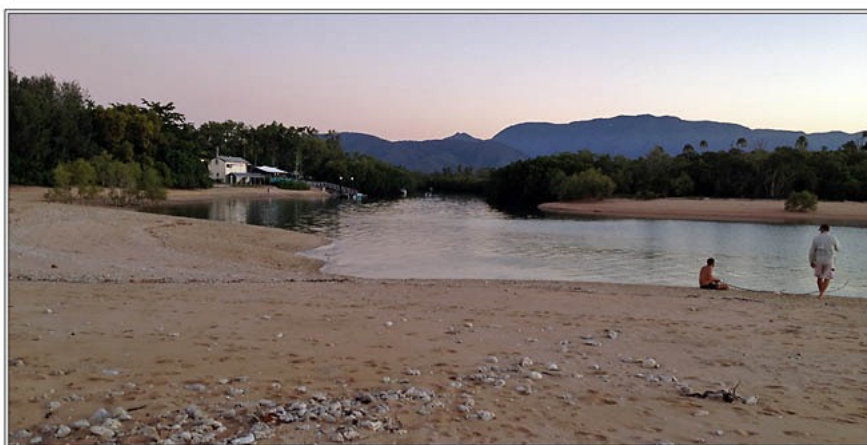
Mouth of Saltwater Creek at Toomulla Beach

In the camping area, there is usually [Red-winged Parrot](#). In the dune scrub are [Varied Triller](#), [Fairy Gerygone](#) and [Olive-backed Sunbird](#). A few waders usually over-winter at the mouth of Saltwater Creek and various species occur in the mangroves. Along the beach are terns, [Brahminy Kite](#) and [Osprey](#), and [White-bellied Sea-Eagle](#), which breed near here.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Balgol Beach

Balgol Beach, at the mouth of Rollingsstone Creek, has extensive sand flats with some rocky reefs exposed at low tide.



Mouth of Rollingsstone Creek at Balgal Beach

During spring and autumn migration, this is a good place to see [Ruddy Turnstone](#)

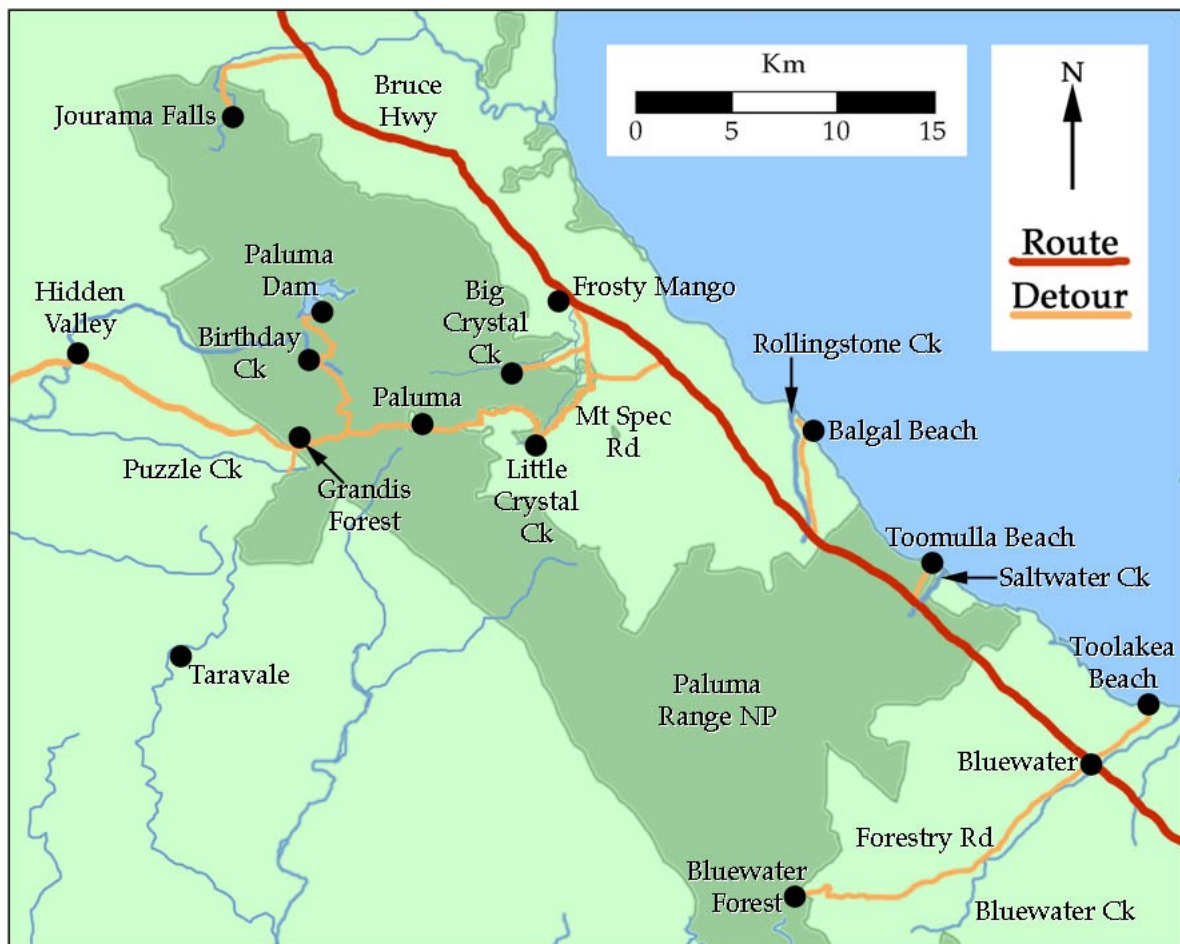
and other waders.

Free camping is allowed for 48 hours in the camping area near the shop, but it is likely to be crowded at weekends. Turn off the Bruce Highway just south of Rollingstone. Another free camping area is by Rollingstone Creek, near the turnoff.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Paluma Range National Park

This 80,000ha park includes the former Mt Spec National Park, Jourama Falls National Park and Bluewater State Forest. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/paluma-range/index.html>].



Habitats range from open eucalypt woodland on the foothills - good for [Dollarbird](#) in summer - to dense rainforest in the creek gullies and on the cool, moist top of the Paluma Range.

The majority of the rainforest birds of North Queensland can be found here, only a 90-minute drive north from Townsville. [Australian King-Parrot](#), [Lesser Sooty Owl](#), [White-rumped Swiftlet](#), [Fernwren](#), [Spotted Catbird](#), [Tooth-billed](#) and [Golden Bowerbird](#), [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#), [Mountain Thornbill](#), [Grey-headed Robin](#), [Russet-Tailed](#) and [Bassian Thrush](#) are just some of the species resident all year, with [Buff-](#)

[breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) visiting to breed between November and March.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Bluewater Forest

Now a section of Paluma Range National Park, the rainforest here is the closest to Townsville. Most of the rainforest and fringe forest species can be found here, even though the forest itself does not appear as lush and rich as that in more northern areas. There are interesting areas where casuarinas, ferns and palms all grow together.



View to Magnetic Island from Forestry Road

The road to the park, Forestry Road, starts just past Bluewater Creek, 30km from Townsville. It changes from sealed surface to gravel after 7km. About 20km from the highway at the top of the range is the site of an old loggers' camp on the left. The last 7km leading to the old loggers' camp is steep and rough: 4WD is recommended. There are no facilities and no water. This park may be closed after heavy rain. Before going, check with [Queensland National Parks](#).

One kilometre beyond the loggers' camp is a small clearing on the left, with a track leading into the casuarina forest. Both are good places to park, then walk along the road or explore the tracks leading from the clearings. There is denser rainforest further up the road, but no tracks into it.



Creek near the Loggers' Camp

Watch for [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#), [Pied Monarch](#), [Fairy Gerygone](#), [Red-browed Finch](#) and [Silvereye](#) beside the road. [Yellow-faced](#), [Scarlet](#), [White-cheeked](#) and [Dusky](#) Honeyeater are in the casuarina forest. In the denser forest, are [Chowchilla](#), [Noisy Pitta](#), scrubwrens and [Eastern Whipbird](#). Check fruit-bearing tree such as figs for [Barred Cuckoo-Shrike](#).

At night, [Large-tailed Nightjars](#) perch on both the sealed and unsealed sections. [Lesser Sooty Owl](#) and [White-throated Nightjar](#) have been recorded near the logging camp. Along the sealed section near the Highway, look for [Red-winged Parrot](#), [Dollarbird](#) in summer and [Square-tailed Kite](#) soaring over the trees in winter.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Big Crystal Creek

Along **Big Crystal Creek**, at the bottom of the range, there are camping and picnic areas and an excellent swimming hole called Paradise Water Hole.



Paradise Waterhole on Big Crystal Creek

Watch for [White-browed Robin](#), [Northern Fantail](#) and [Lovely Fairy-wren](#) at the campground and along the road. [Australian King-Parrot](#) is sometimes here in winter. The rare [Red Goshawk](#) has been recorded here. See the [Queensland National Parks](#) section for campsite bookings.

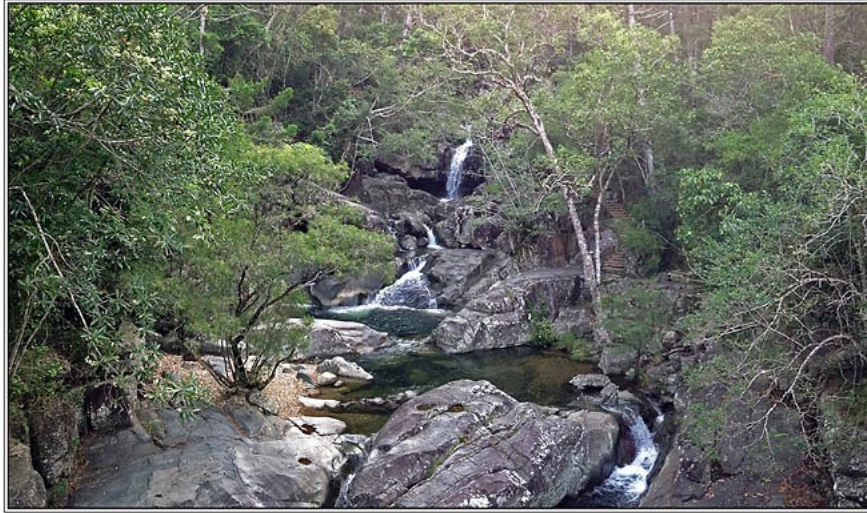
To drive there from the south, turn left off the Bruce Highway, 10km north of Rollingstone onto the old Bruce Highway loop. After 4km, bear right at the Paluma turnoff continuing along the old highway for a further 2km, and turn left into Spiegelhauer Road which leads to the Big Crystal Creek camping and picnic areas, and swimming hole.

From the north, turn right at Mutarnee 1.3km south of the Frosty Mango onto the northern end of the old highway loop, and right again after 1.5km into Spiegelhauer Road. See the [Paluma Range National Park map](#).

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Little Crystal Creek

The small village of Paluma is at the top of the range and accessible on the steep and bendy but sealed Mt Spec Road. Halfway up there are parking and picnic facilities at **Little Crystal Creek**, which has popular swimming holes.



Little Crystal Creek

This area is worth checking for interesting species such as [Topknot Pigeon](#), [Barred Cuckoo-shrike](#) and [White-eared Monarch](#). Listen for the distinctive 'tuck' call of the [Graceful Honeyeater](#) near the car park.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Paluma

Paluma has national park walking tracks starting near The Loop picnic area. Early morning is the best time to see [Noisy Pitta](#), thrushes, [Eastern Whipbird](#) or [Grey-headed Robin](#) on the open lawn of the picnic area. Keep an eye out for [White-headed Pigeon](#), [Topknot](#) and [Crimson Rosella](#).

The Paluma Field Study Centre - run by the Environmental Education Section of the Department of Education - has an 'Environmental Sensory Trail'. It is especially recommended if you have children with you. Brochures are available at the start of the trail. Close to the road is a display of posters, wildlife information and a map of the walking tracks in the area.



Park and Rainforest in Paluma Village

Some of the species that you miss along the tracks may be seen in the gardens of the village and the Ivy Cottage Tearooms. At the latter, [Macleay's Honeyeaters](#). and [Victoria's Riflebirds](#) will steal the scones and cream from your plate! The Ivy Cottage is open at weekends and at other times for special events: check the [[Facebook page](#)].

The Paluma Rainforest Walk is a 580m circuit track that runs from opposite the Community Hall through the rainforest and back to the road past the Ivy Cottage. Though short, this track can be very productive, with the chance of [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#), [Large-billed Scrubwren](#), [Grey-headed Robin](#), [Chowchilla](#) and [Victoria's Riflebird](#).

- [Accommodation Catering for Birders](#): Forest Mist, Rainforest Inn, Paluma Rainforest Cottages.
- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#).

Paluma Dam

The turnoff to **Paluma Dam** is on the north side of the road from Paluma to Hidden Valley 4km from the village. After heavy rain the dirt road becomes impassable and will be closed. In this area there are several [Golden](#) and [Satin](#) Bowerbird bowers, most active from September to February.



Lake Paluma (Paluma Dam) from near the Camping Area

There is a picnic area and campground at the dam, operated by Townsville City Council. Bookings for sites: Customer Service Centre, 103 Walker St, Townsville; 1300 878 001, 07 4727 9000; online [[TCC: Lake Paluma](#)].

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Birthday Creek Falls

About halfway along the road to Paluma Dam there is a car park and a 500m walking track to the top of Birthday Creek Falls.



View from the Top of Birthday Creek Falls

The bower a of [Golden Bowerbird](#) can be seen on the right-hand side of the track leading to the falls and the display platform of a [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#) is beside the car park.

Along the track you may see [Chowchilla](#) and [Fernwren](#). Both [White-headed](#) and [Topknot](#) Pigeon turn up when the trees are bearing fruit.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Grandis Forest

Past the dam turnoff, the road continues through a spectacular area of Rose Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*) called the **Grandis Forest**.



The Grandis Forest on the Road to Hidden Valley from Paluma

Here, [Bridled Honeyeater](#) is more easily seen than in the rainforest. [Grey Shrike-thrush](#), [Eastern Yellow Robin](#) and [White-naped Honeyeater](#) are usually here and keep an eye - and an ear - out for [Spotted Pardalote](#). [Crested Shrike-tit](#) has been recorded here too.

The tall forest gives way to casuarina-eucalypt-banksia woodland then heathland before dropping to open, drier country near Running River. [Little](#) and [Scaly-breasted](#) Lorikeets are numerous when eucalypts and Swamp Mahogany (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) are flowering.



Scarlet Honeyeater Feeding on Swamp Mahogany

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 22 March 2005

13636 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Mount Zero and Taravale

These properties are now owned and managed for conservation by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. See [<http://www.australianwildlife.org/AWC-Sanctuaries/Mt-Zero-Taravale-Sanctuary.aspx>].

At present there is no access for visiting birders, though it is possible to drive along the first 1km of Taravale Road as far as Puzzle Creek before reaching a locked gate. There is a small, isolated population of [Glossy Black-Cockatoo](#) in this area, several hundred kilometres north of its usual range.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Frosty Mango

The **Frosty Mango**, 400m north of the bridge over Crystal Creek on the Bruce Highway at Mutarnee has the best selection of tropical fruit ice creams in Australia, with flavours such as chocolate sapote and mangosteen!



The Frosty Mango

Jourama Falls

The turnoff to **Jourama Falls** is on the west side of the Bruce Highway, 18km north of the bridge over Crystal Creek just past Sandy Creek or 23km south of Ingham. Although not as spectacular as Wallaman Falls, Jourama Falls is well worth a visit for an overnight stay or a picnic.



Jourama Falls

In the dense vegetation along Waterview Creek, occur [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#), [White-browed Robin](#), [Large-billed Gerygone](#), [Little Shrike-thrush](#), [Olive-backed Sunbird](#), [Northern Fantail](#) and [Pied](#), [Spectacled](#) and [Black-faced Monarch](#). The more open areas are preferred by [Lemon-bellied Flycatcher](#), [Leaden Flycatcher](#), [Scarlet Honeyeater](#) and [Forest Kingfisher](#).



Waterview Creek near the Jourama Falls Camping Area

From the parking area at the end of the road, a 1.5km track leads through stands of casuarina and Alexandra Palm to the falls, a series of cascades and short drops over salmon-coloured granite. Before the falls a shorter track on the right branches off to

a higher lookout with an excellent view of the falls and the surrounding eucalypt woodland.

Many species of butterflies are also here. For a reference on their identification see [Butterflies](#) in the chapter on References, Addresses and Websites.



Lace Monitor (Varanus varius)

Jourama Falls, Northeastern Queensland, 24 April 2008

65552 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

This park has several very pleasant spots for a picnic and a separate camping area with toilets and tables. See the [Queensland National Parks](#) page for booking information. Large monitor lizards (goannas) are common and tame around the picnic areas.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

The Orient

The Orient is an area of wetland and cattle properties between Trebonne Creek and Cattle Creek just south of Ingham and accessible via Orient Road. It is the closest place to Palm Creek Conservation Area and Halifax Bay National Park that is accessible in a conventional vehicle.



From Ingham, travel south on the Bruce Highway for 4km, turn left into Tokalon Road, turn right after 500m remaining on Tokalon Road and follow it until it becomes Orient Road. From Townsville, turn right off the Highway into Pinnacle Hill Road just before Trebonne Creek, 8km south of Ingham and continue along this road until it reaches Orient Road.



Wetlands along Orient Road

Zitting Cisticola has been recorded here and Australian Pratincole, Brolga, Glossy Ibis, Tawny Grassbird and Rufous-throated Honeyeater may be seen from the road.

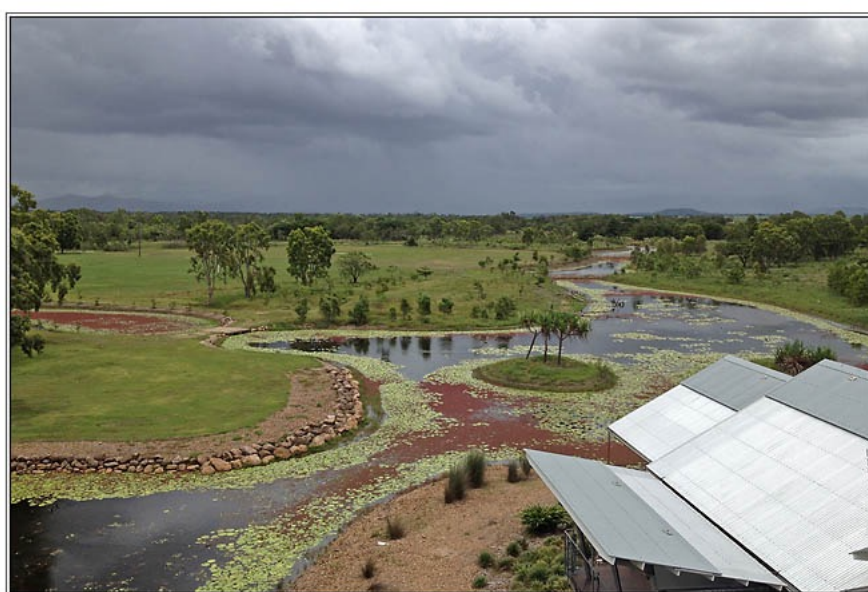
- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

Tyto Wetlands

The speciality of this wetland reserve, and the reason it was not developed for other purposes is the presence of [Grass Owls](#). These are best seen in the early evening when they leave for their nightly foraging. After dusk, listen for the characteristic 'chop chop' calls of [Large-tailed Nightjars](#) and watch for them hawking for moths anywhere in the wooded areas of the reserve.

There are plenty of waterbird species - including [Little Bittern](#) and [White-browed Crane](#) - as well as [Tawny Grassbird](#) and several kinds of finch such as [Crimson](#), making a visit well worthwhile at any time.

Turn off the Bruce Highway 500m south of the centre of Ingham to the excellent Tyto Wetlands Centre [<http://www.tyto.com.au/tyto-wetlands>].



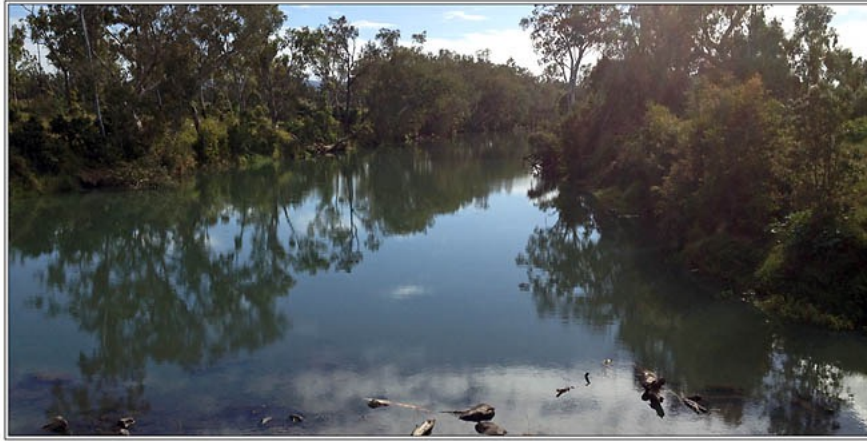
Tyto Wetlands

The aerodrome south of [Tyto Wetlands](#) is worth checking for [Little Curlew](#) in summer.

- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#)

The Inland Route to Paluma

For a full day of birding in a wide range of habitats, take the longer alternate route to Paluma. This can be especially good for honeyeaters with a possible 30 species. From Townsville, travel via Ross River Road or the Ring Road to the Herveys Range Development Road. Coming from north of Townsville, Black River Road connects the Bruce Highway to the Herveys Range Development Road. From the top of the range the road passes through open eucalyptus woodland with some cattle grazing and the Defence Department Training Area.



Keelbottom Creek, Looking North

Possible stops include Keelbottom Creek, 70km from Townsville, and anywhere there are flowering eucalypts. One hundred and nine kilometres from Townsville (the road sign say 114km) and about 1km after the Star River, turn right at the multi-signed turn-off to Paluma along the Laroona-Ewan Road.



Turn-off to Hidden Valley on Hervey Range Development Road

It is worth spending some time here to look for the first of the dry country birds such as [Apostlebird](#), [Brown Treecreeper](#), [Yellow-rumped Thornbill](#), [Noisy](#) and [Yellow-throated Miner](#), [Grey-crowned Babbler](#) and [Squatter Pigeon](#). The Laroona-Ewan road leads to a mine and is used by trucks carrying ore, so care should be taken.



Dam 10km from Herveys Range Developmental Road

After 10km, the dam on the right is a good place to stop and check on either side of the road for more dry country birds such as [Singing Honeyeater](#), [Grey-crowned Babbler](#), [Buff-rumped Thornbill](#), [Weebill](#), [White-winged Triller](#) and [Striated Pardalote](#). Dams in dry areas often produce surprises: in July 2014 there were 22 [Cotton Pygmy-Geese](#) here.



Dam 18km from Herveys Range Developmental Road

Another dam which can be equally productive, also on the right, is about 8km further on, just before the remnants of a railway line visible after the next bend. If there are cattle near either dam take care not to disturb them.

Approximately 27km further on, and 6km after crossing Running River, is the right-hand turn to Hidden Valley and Paluma along the Ewan-Paluma Road (in total 45km from Hervey Range Development Road). From here travel will be slower as this gravel road is narrow, winding and not suitable for caravans. [Masked](#) and [White-browed](#) Woodswallows have been recorded along this road and there is a small population of [Emu](#).



Looking North Along the Ewan-Paluma Road

After 25km, the road again crosses Running River just after the Mount Fox turnoff and Hidden Valley Cabins are 1km further on towards Paluma on the left. From here it is 22km to Paluma, and in July 2014 only the 5km stretch of road closest to Hidden Valley remained unsealed - giving a total length of 31km of gravel along the Ewan-Paluma Road.

The entire inland route could be done in one day, or at a more leisurely pace taking two and staying at Hidden Valley or [Paluma](#). The round trip from Townsville via this inland route and the Bruce Highway is just under 300km (Townsville-Paluma is 210km along the inland route and 90km via the Bruce Highway).

- Accommodation Catering for Birders: [Hidden Valley Cabins](#).
- [Return to Townsville to Ingham: Map & Links](#).

Ingham to Tully

Ingham to Tully: Map & Links



- [Ingham](#)
- [Dungeness & Lucinda](#)
- [Girringun National Park](#)
- [Wallaman Falls](#)
- [Broadwater Creek](#)
- [Hinchinbrook Island National Park](#)
- [Five Mile Creek Swimming Hole](#)

- [Cardwell](#)
- [Cardwell Forest Drive](#)
- [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#)
- [Bilyana Rest Area](#)
- [Murray Falls](#)
- [Hull Heads](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Ingham

This busy town is the commercial centre for the surrounding cane farms, forestry industry, and nearby fishing ports of Lucinda and Dungeness. Many of the original cane farmers came from Italy, and the town has a definite Italian ambience with some good continental delicatessens and cafes.

The QPWS office is at Ripple Creek 10km north of Ingham on the road down to Lucinda via Macknade, open Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm. Phone: 07 4777 2822.

It is also an excellent birdwatching area, with over 370 species recorded within 50km of the town. Raptors such as the [Australian Hobby](#) and rare [Red Goshawk](#) may be encountered in leafy areas, and at night listen for [Southern Boobook](#) and [Barking Owl](#).

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Dungeness & Lucinda

Dean Beech runs a variety of cruises. [Great-billed Heron](#) may be seen along the channel, and on Haycock Island is the huge nest of a [White-bellied Sea-Eagle](#). There usually [Varied Honeyeaters](#) near the boat ramp at Dungeness.

Dean also ferries bushwalkers to, or collects them from, Georges Point to start or finish the Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island. Contact: Dean 0409 744 915[deanbeech@gmail.com], Hinchinbrook Island Cruises 0499 335 383 [info@hinchinbrookislandcruises.com.au], [<http://www.hinchinbrookislandcruises.com.au>].



Hinchinbrook Island and Channel from Dungeness

At **Lucinda Point**, a sand spit divides the open sea from a tidal saltwater lagoon, mudflat and mangroves. The spit is accessible by foot. It may be completely covered at high tide, so walk along it only on a falling tide. Check tide times and aim to start when the tide is at about 2 metres and falling [<https://tides.willyweather.com.au/qld/northern/lucinda.html>].

The mudflats can be very good in summer for plovers and other waders, including [Beach Stone-Curlew](#), [Pied Oystercatcher](#), [Greater](#) and [Lesser Sand Plover](#), [Terek Sandpiper](#) and [Grey-tailed Tattler](#). [Caspian](#), [Gull-billed](#) and [Little Tern](#) feed in the lagoon and terns often roost on the seaward side, including [Crested](#), [Lesser Crested](#) and, in summer, [Common Tern](#). Expect raptors such as [Osprey](#), [Brahminy Kite](#) and [White-bellied Sea-Eagle](#). [Little Terns](#) and [Red-capped Plovers](#) nest on the sand, so tread with care.



Lagoon & Spit at Lucinda Point

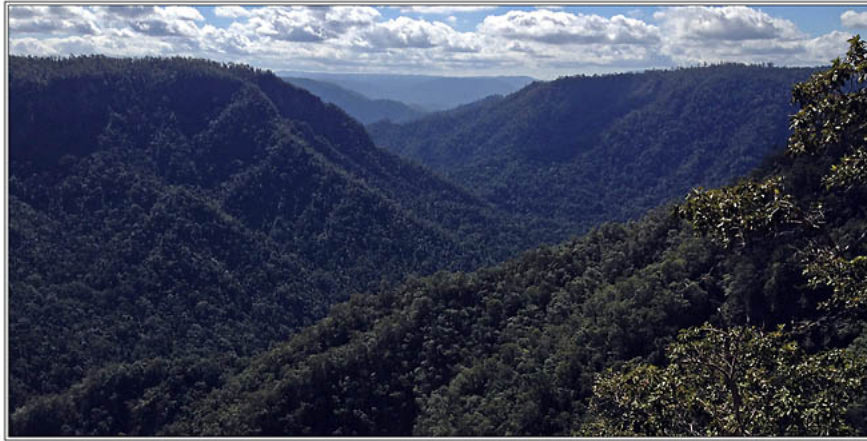
Dungeness and Lucinda are reached via Halifax either along Halifax Road from Ingham or Fulton Drive from the Bruce Highway 10km north of Ingham. From Halifax, continue on Lucinda Point Road. The Fulton Drive route goes past Macknade Wetland 7km from the Highway: this is worth checking for [Black Bittern](#) but be aware that Saltwater Crocodile occurs here.



- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Girringun National Park

This large park, formerly named after the naturalist/explorer Carl Lumholtz, covers pre-existing national parks, areas of state forest and Crown land. It includes [Wallaman Falls](#), Herbert River Gorge, and Hinchinbrook Channel National Parks, Blencoe Falls and Kirrama Conservation Park. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/girringun/index.html>].



Distant View of Herbert River Gorge from Wallaman Falls

Herbert River Gorge is only accessible by hiking along the challenging Wet Tropics Great Walk which links Wallaman Falls, Blencoe Falls and points south and west of Abercrombie [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-walks-wet-tropics-juwun-jabal/about.html>].



Blencoe Falls

The Kirrama Range Road from Kennedy to Kirrama Conservation Park and Blencoe Falls National Park, closed following cyclone Larry in 2006, was re-opened in December 2014. This provides another route from the coast to the Kennedy Highway. The road is unsealed; 4WD is recommended and rivers may become impassable in the wet season. It is about 60km from Kennedy on the Bruce Highway to Blencoe Falls and a further 90km from Blencoe Falls to Mt Garnet on the Kennedy Highway. The road goes through rainforest between Kennedy and Kirrama Range, getting progressively drier until the forest becomes open tropical savannah. For more information see also [<http://www.wettropics.gov.au/kirrama-range-road.html>].



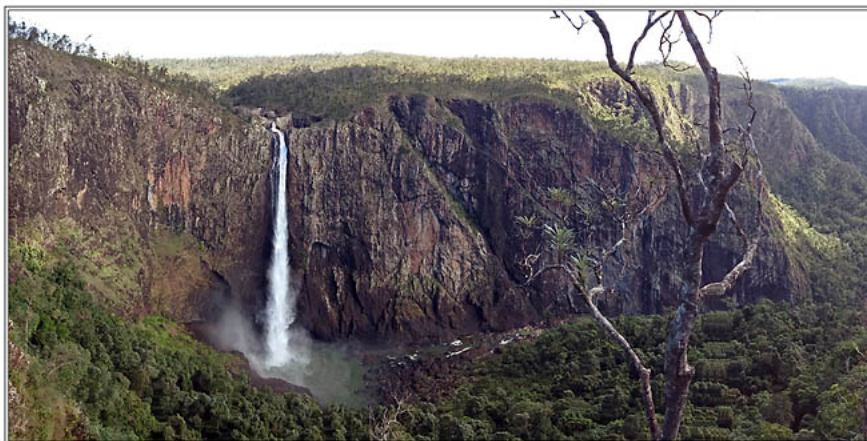
Camping Area on Blencoe Creek

Basic camping is available beside Blencoe Creek above the falls [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/blencoe-falls/index.html].

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Wallaman Falls

Wallaman Falls, the largest, permanent, clear-drop waterfall in Australia, is also far enough off the beaten track to warrant a stay of two or more nights. Here Stony Creek, a tributary of the Herbert River, drops 268m into a 20m deep pool. Vegetation varies from eucalypt woodland, casuarinas and xanthorreas, to rainforest resulting from constant humidity from the falls, where lichens, epiphytes and mosses grow prolifically.



Wallaman Falls

A correspondingly varied range of bird species can be seen with [Dusky](#), [Yellow-faced](#), [White-naped](#) and [White-throated](#) Honeyeater, [Pied Currawong](#) and [Olive-](#)

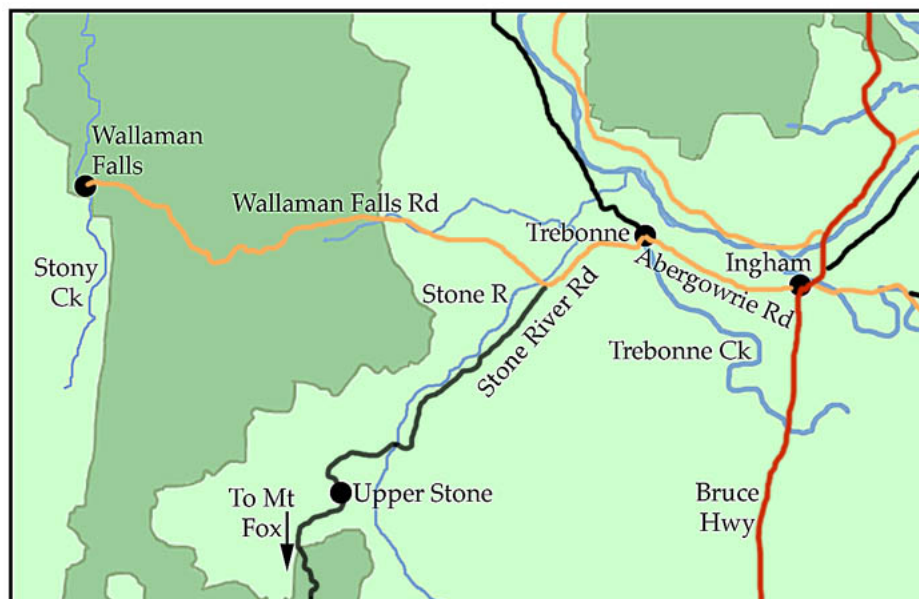
backed Oriole in the drier areas, and Eastern Whipbird, Chowchilla, Grey-headed Robin and Victoria's Riflebird in the rainforest. There is also a good chance of seeing Cassowaries. Do not feed them!

At night try spotlighting for various possums, bandicoots and Fawn-footed Melomys, and listen for Large-tailed Nightjar, Owlet-Nightjar, Boobook and Lesser Sooty Owl. Platypus are often seen in the pool above the picnic area.



Camping Area at Wallaman Falls

The camping and day-use area has toilets, tables and a public phone [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/girringun-wallaman/index.html>]. Walking trails start at the day-use area including the easy Banggurrú walk around the pools above the falls and a link to the Wet Tropics Great Walk, though this walk was temporarily closed in 2014 owing to damage by cyclone Ita. There are breath-taking views of the falls and gorge from the day-use area at the falls lookout, a 2km drive from the camping area. From here, the steep 2km Djinda Walk leads to the bottom of the falls.



Wallaman Falls is 50km from Ingham: turn west at Ingham, travel 8km to Trebonne

and turn left into Stone River Road. After 6km, turn right over the Stone River and immediately left and right into Wallaman Falls Road. After heavy rain, check the condition of the road to Wallaman Falls at the [Tyto Wetlands Centre](#). In 2014 all of the road was sealed, except for a 4km stretch.

Watch out for [Crimson Finch](#) in the tall grass by the roads, and [Black-faced](#) and [White-breasted](#) Woodswallow on the powerlines. In this area [Grass Owl](#) has been seen regularly, flying above the grasslands at dusk.

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links](#).

Broadwater Creek

This is another park for those looking for good birdwatching off the beaten track, though it can be busy during long weekends. The park is beside Broadwater Creek in Abergowrie State Forest in the foothills of the Rockingham Bay Range about one-and-a-half hours drive from Ingham. There are shady campsites and a day-use area near an excellent swimming hole. Picnic tables and toilets are provided and there is a plentiful supply of water from the creek. Campsite books are available through [Queensland National Parks](#). Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/broadwater-abergowie/index.html>].



The Swimming Hole at Broadwater Creek

This extensive, heavily forested area has a very high density of raptors and owls, including [Square-tailed Kite](#), [Brown](#) and [Grey Goshawks](#), [Masked](#), [Rufous](#) and [Lesser Sooty Owl](#). [Pacific Baza](#) breeds here. In the gallery forest bordering the creek and on the edge of the rainforest are [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#), [Pied](#), [White-eared](#) and [Spectacled](#) Monarchs, and [Lovely Fairy-wren](#). A 2km walking track leads through a small but very productive patch of rainforest, where [Spotted Catbird](#), [Large-billed Scrubwren](#), [Eastern Whipbird](#), [Grey-headed Robin](#) and [Noisy Pitta](#) may all be found.



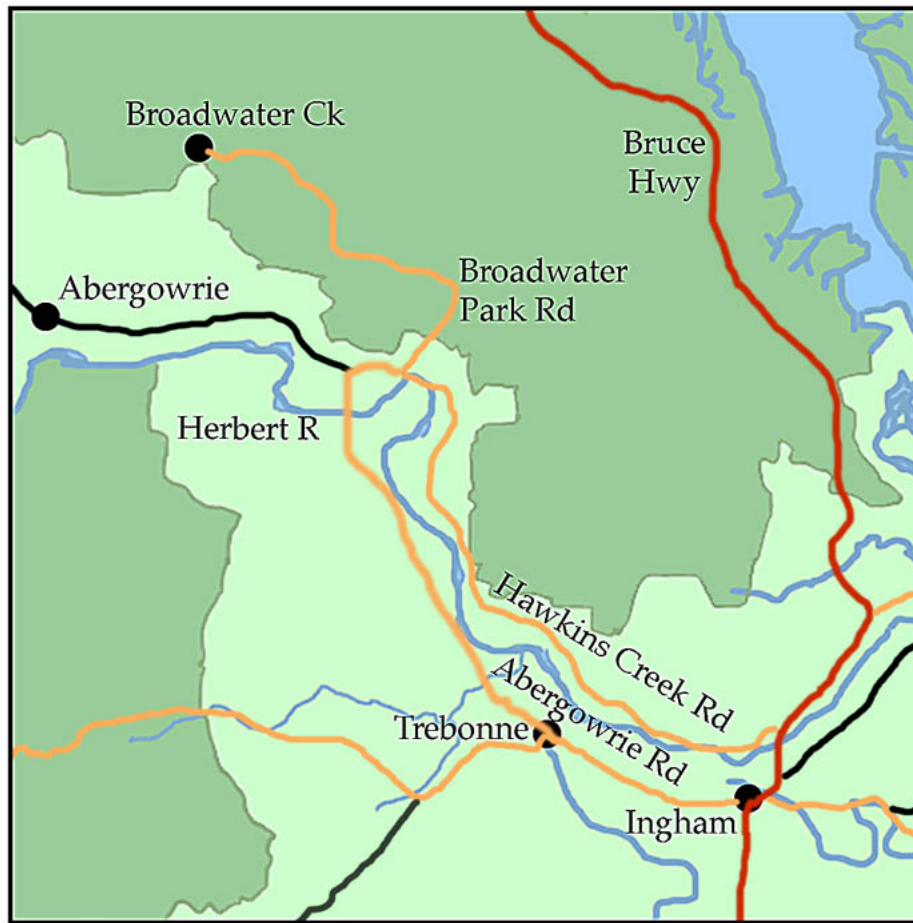
Northern Brown Bandicoot (Isodon macrourus)

Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 14 September 2013

155194 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Northern Brown Bandicoot](#)]

In the late afternoon, [Double-eyed Fig-Parrots](#) may fly over the forest or feed on sandpaper figs. Along the walking track is an old, massively buttressed fig tree about 40m in circumference at the base. At night try spotlighting on the track near the tree for bandicoots and listen for [Lesser Sooty Owl](#), [Large-tailed Nightjar](#) and [Owlet-nightjar](#).

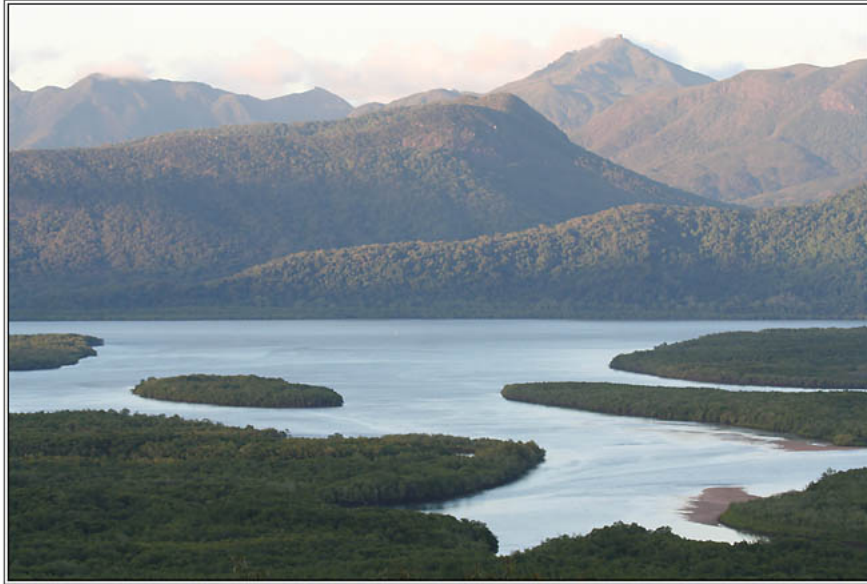


There are two routes to Broadwater Creek, both about the same length of 47km. One from Ingham via Trebonne along Abergowrie Road; the other along Hawkins Creek Road, which leaves the Bruce Highway north of the bridge over the Herbert River. Both are now sealed except for the final 15km stretch of gravel road inside the park and are suitable for caravans.

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Hinchinbrook Island National Park

The largest island national park in Australia is separated from the mainland by the narrow, deep, mangrove-fringed Hinchinbrook Channel. The spectacular, rugged backbone of the island rises to the highest peak of Mt Bowen, 1142m. The diverse range of habitat from coastal areas, grassland, mangroves, banksia heathland and rainforest, is reflected in the 140 species on the bird list, available at the Cardwell Rainforest & Reef Information Centre: 07 4066 8334; 142 Victoria Street, Cardwell; [<http://www.greatgreenwaytourism.com/rainforestreef>].



Hinchinbrook Island Beyond Hinchinbrook Channel at Sunset

The 30km Thorsborne Trail goes from Ramsay Bay in the north to George Point in the south. Four days and three nights are recommended for the trail and camping is permitted at seven designated sites, but campers must be fully self-contained and prepared to take their own water. Permits for the Thorsborne Trail are obtained from the Cardwell Rainforest & Reef Information Centre [<https://www.hinchinbrookway.com.au/thorsborne-trail-0>]. Bookings should be made well in advance for school holidays. A map of the trail is available from QPWS at [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/hinchinbrook-thorsborne/index.html>].

The small resort at Cape Richards on the northern tip of the island was damaged by cyclone Yasi in 2011 and in April 2018 had not yet reopened. Check the Port Hinchinbrook Website for updates [<http://www.porthinchinbrook.com.au/island-resort>].

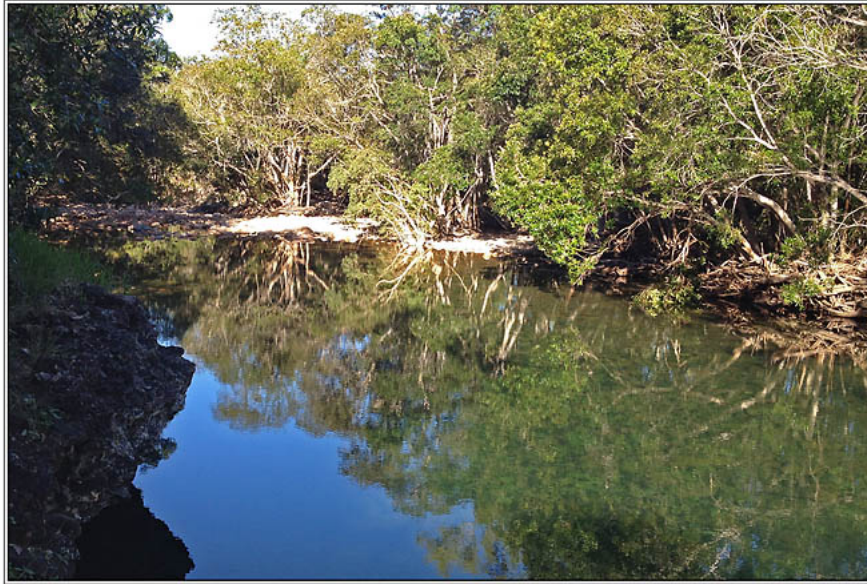
Boats from Cardwell and Lucinda [<http://www.hinchinbrookislandcruises.com.au>] operate both transfers and cruises to the island.

See: [Superb Fruit-Dove](#), [Wedge-tailed Eagle](#), [Beach Stone-curlew](#), [Sulphur-crested Cockatoo](#) and [Lesser Sooty Owl](#).

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links](#).

Five Mile Creek Swimming Hole

Eight kilometres south of Cardwell and less than a kilometre west of the Highway, this is an ideal spot for a picnic and swim, with a surprising number of species in the riverine forest including [White-browed Robin](#), [Graceful](#) and [Scarlet Honeyeater](#) and [Little Shrike-thrush](#).



Swimming Hole at Five Mile Creek

- Return to [Ingham to Tully: Map & Links](#).

Cardwell

This small seaside town, straggling along the Bruce Highway, is about halfway between Cairns and Townsville. It was badly damaged by cyclone Yasi, but the town and foreshore have been restored.



Cardwell Foreshore, Restored After Cyclone Yasi

Cardwell Rainforest & Reef Information Centre is near the jetty in the town: 07 4066 8334; 142 Victoria Street, Cardwell; [<http://www.greatgreenwaytourism.com/rainforestreef>]. It has an excellent interpretive display on the reef, mangroves and rainforest and is open on weekdays from 8:30am-5pm and on weekends and public holidays from 9am-1pm. Brochures for all the northern national parks and camping permits for Orpheus, [Hinchinbrook](#) and [Dunk Island](#) are available here.

At the northern end of the town, follow signs along White Street to the boat ramp on

Meunga Creek. In the mangroves occur [Black Butcherbird](#), [Mangrove Robin](#), [Shining Flycatcher](#) and [Mangrove](#) and [Large-billed](#) Gerygone occur in the mangroves. There is the possibility of seeing a [Great-billed Heron](#). [Northern Fantail](#) and [White-browed Robin](#) occur in the nearby coastal scrub.

Note that the mangroves were, like the town, badly damaged by cyclone Yasi in 2011. They are recovering but the regrowth is dense and many fallen branches make access and birding difficult. This is generally the case in recovering cyclone-damaged woodland.



Mangroves at Meunga Creek

[Mangrove Robin](#) may also be seen by walking north up the beach from Cardwell, to a stand of mangroves on a sandspit. The northern end of the beach is accessible from the Coral Sea Memorial on White Street on the way to the boat ramp. In winter, look out for [Square-tailed Kite](#) around the town.



Northern End of Cardwell Beach

South of the town there is a small area of mangroves with a walk through it to Port Hinchinbrook. Look out for [Collared Kingfishers](#) here in the mangroves or, at low tide, perched on trees near the mudflat.

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Cardwell Forest Drive

Cardwell Forest Drive starts at the end of Brasenose Street which leaves the highway in the centre of Cardwell. Though this drive mainly leads through pine plantations, there are pleasant picnic areas with swimming holes and good birding. Look for [Lovely Fairy-wren](#) near Attie Creek; [Red-backed Fairy-wren](#) occurs here also. From the Attie Creek picnic area, a 700m track leads to Attie Creek Falls.



Swimming Hole near Attie Creek Picnic Area

This is gravel road and usually suitable for 2WD: check its condition and obtain a self-drive pamphlet at the Rainforest & Reef Information Centre in [Cardwell](#). See: [<http://greatgreenway.com.au/thing-to-do/cardwell-forest-drive/>].

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Edmund Kennedy National Park

Four kilometres north of Cardwell, turn east off the highway at Cliff Road. This gravel road leads to **Edmund Kennedy National Park**, a 6317ha park that protects a diverse range of vegetation - lowland rainforest, open eucalypt woodland, melaleuca woodland, sedge swamps and mangroves. The park, along with Murray Falls, is now part of Girramay National Park. Links to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/girramay/index.html>] and [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/girramay-edmund-kennedy/index.html>].



The Beach at Edmund Kennedy National Park

Most of the park is undeveloped, but at the southern end walking tracks and boardwalks provide access to a number of vegetation types. These provide habitats for a range of species such as [Grey Whistler](#), [Pale-Yellow Robin](#), [Emerald Dove](#), [Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove](#), [Black Butcherbird](#), [Yellow Oriole](#), [Little Shrike-thrush](#), [Lovely Fairy-wren](#), [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#) and, with luck, [Noisy Pitta](#). Many of the trees along the tracks have identification labels. Try for [Beach Stone-curlew](#) along the beach, north of the picnic area. During summer months, mosquitoes and sandflies are especially bad! The roads may be closed after heavy rain. Check at the Rainforest & Reef Information Centre in [Cardwell](#).

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Bilyana Rest Area

Bilyana Rest Area is well situated for a birding break, about halfway between Townsville and Cairns. The trees in the cleared area and the dense vegetation along the creek often produce good birds, with fantails and flycatchers in winter months. Overnight stays are permitted for a single night, but the rest area is close to the highway and may be noisy.



Bilyana Rest Area

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Murray Falls

Now part of Girramay National Park, which also includes Edmund Kennedy National Park, it has spectacular falls, good swimming holes and a very pleasant, usually uncrowded camping area [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/girramay-edmund-kennedy/index.html>]. This is an excellent birding site and well worth a visit of several days. The camping area has toilets, a cold shower and tables. See the [Queensland National Parks](#) page for campsite bookings.



Murray Falls

In the rainforest edge of the camping area and back along the road in the denser vegetation near the creeks, [Pied](#) and [Spectacled](#) Monarch, [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#), [Spotted Catbird](#), [Northern Fantail](#), [Lemon-bellied Flycatcher](#) and [Fairy Gerygone](#) (some Black-throated form) are just a few of the species often seen.

In the Wet, [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) and [Metallic Starling](#) occur along the walking tracks that leads around the camping area, through the forest and up to the top of the falls. It is a good spot for honeyeaters with [Bridled](#), [Macleay's](#), [Fuscous](#), [Scarlet](#), [White-throated](#), [Yellow-spotted](#), [Graceful](#), [Dusky](#) and [Brown](#) all here. In summer, watch for the dangling paperbark nests of [Brown-backed Honeyeaters](#). Listen for [Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos](#) flying up the valley in the late afternoon.



Camping Area at Murray Falls

From the Bruce Highway access is via Bilyana Road or Upper Murray Road. The Bilyana Road turnoff is 21km north of Cardwell (21km south of Tully) near the Bilyana Rest Area; the Upper Murray turnoff is 15km south of Tully (27km north of Cardwell). In both cases, it is about 21km to the park from the highway and only the last 3km stretch is unsealed. On the way, look out for [Swamp Harrier](#) and flocks of finches.

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Hull Heads

Five kilometres south of Tully, Lentini Road leads to **Hull Heads**, 15km, and Tully Heads. The boat ramp at Hull Heads is a possible site for [Mangrove Robin](#). The nearby Hull Heads National Park is accessible only by boat, except by foot from South Mission Beach along the [Kennedy Track](#).



Hull Heads from near the Boat Ramp

There is a council camping area near the beach at Hull Heads. Fees are payable at the adjacent Coast Guard Station. See [<http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/caravanning-and-camping>].

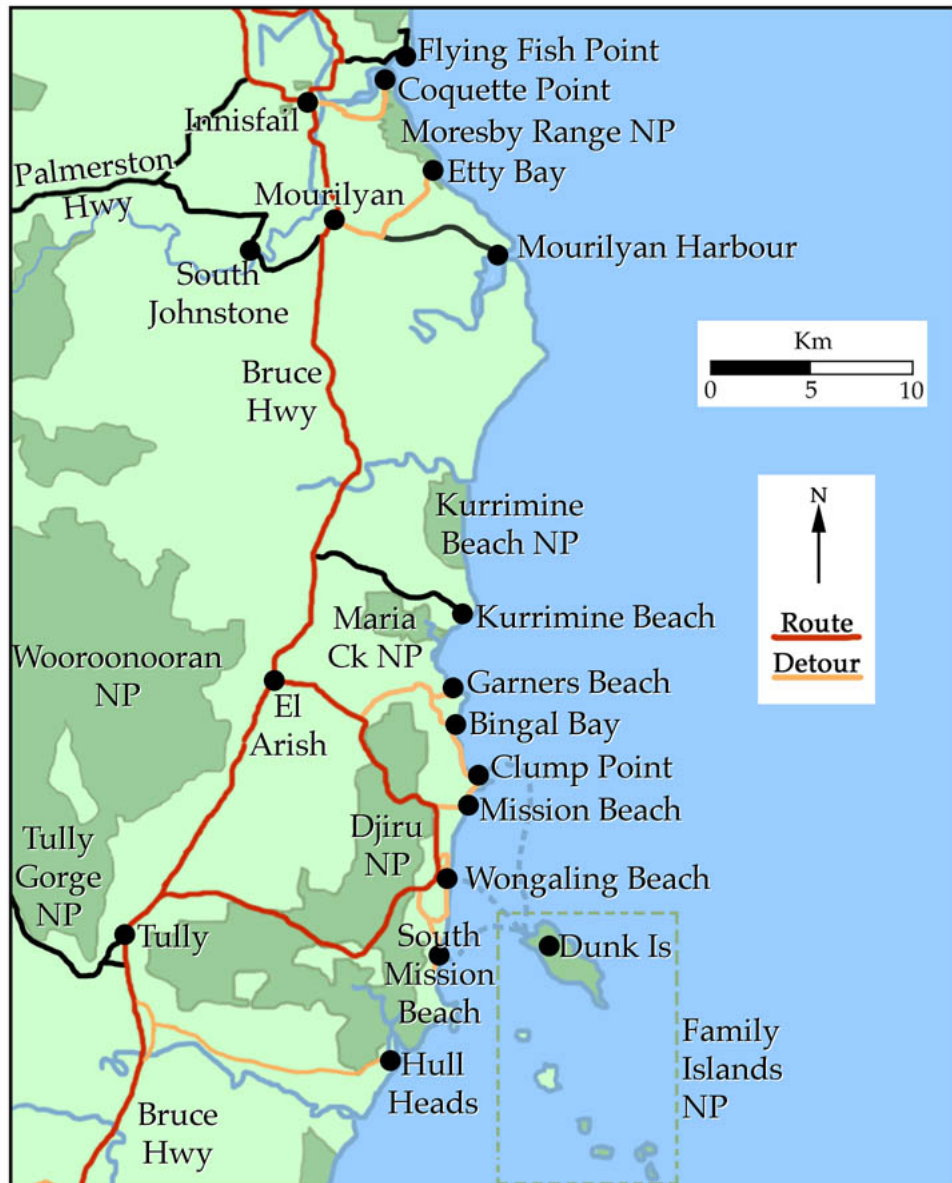


Camping Area at Hull Heads

- [Return to Ingham to Tully: Map & Links.](#)

Tully to Mission Beach & Innisfail

Tully to Innisfail & Mission Beach: Map & Links



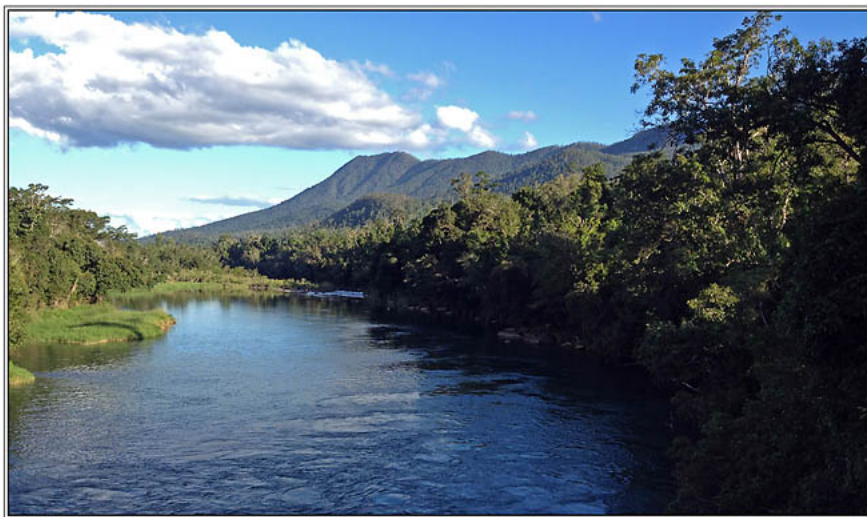
A more detailed section of this map is shown, and the relevant links are repeated, in the [Mission Beach Area: Map & Links](#) page.

- [Tully and Tully Gorge](#)
- [Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [The Kennedy Track](#)
- [Mission Beach](#)
- [Djiru National Park](#)
- [Licuala Day-use Area](#)

- [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#)
- [Clump Mountain National Park](#)
- [Dunk Island](#)
- [Etty and Mourilyan Harbour](#)
- [Coquette Point](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

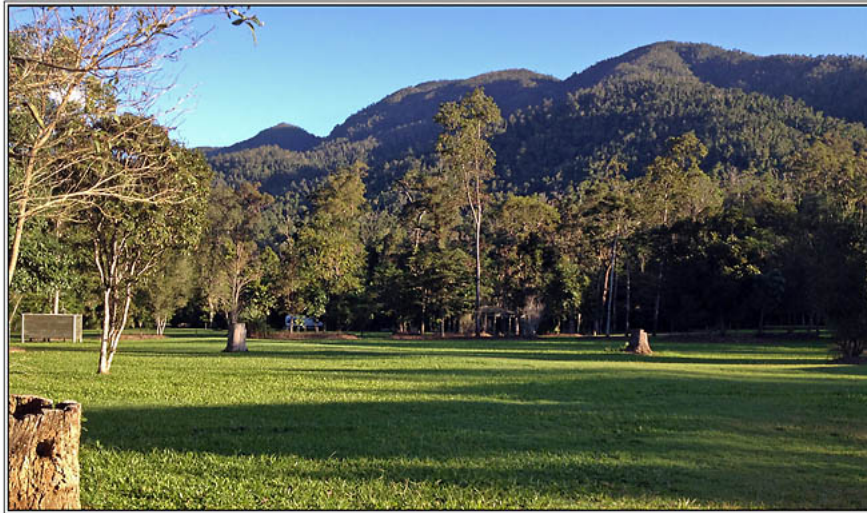
Tully and Tully Gorge

Tully, at the foot of Mt Tyson, vies with Babinda and Innisfail for the doubtful distinction of being the wettest town in Australia. It usually wins, with an average rainfall of 4267mm a year. It is the commercial centre of a prosperous sugar cane and banana growing area, and the nearby Tully River is renowned for its white-water rafting expeditions.



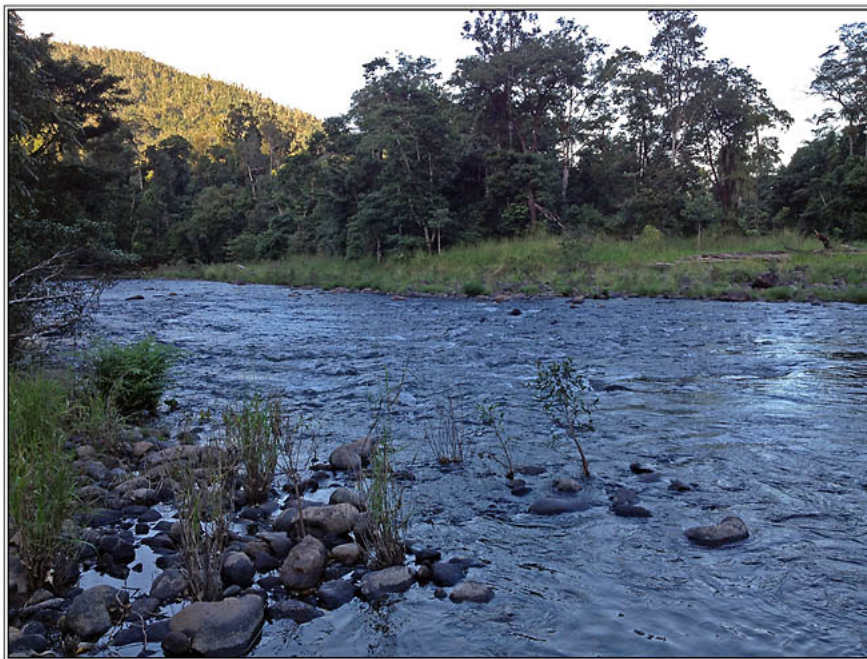
Tully Gorge

Tully Gorge National Park, 40km from Tully, has camping and picnic facilities [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/tully-gorge/index.html>]. Access to the eastern side of the park is along Jarra Creek Road from Tully, the first part of which is shown on the map of the [Mission Beach area](#). Jarra Creek Road can be reached either from Dean Road 1.5km south of Tully or from the centre of Tully via Bryant Street. Jarra Creek Road becomes Cardstone Road. After 40km the road crosses the Tully River and 3km further on the Tully Gorge Camping and Day-use Area is on the left [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/tully-gorge/camping.html>]. Ten kilometres past the camping area, road ends at the Tully Gorge Hydro Power Station.



Tully Gorge Camping Area

On the left directly before the bridge over Tully River is the Cochable Creek Road (the 'H Road'), which leads after 9km to the **Cochable Creek Camping Area**. This is a gravel road, unsuitable for caravans and 4WD is recommended.



Cochable Creek near the Camping Area

Walking trails from the Cochable Creek Camping Area go through remote and relatively undisturbed rainforest. The trails are part of the [Misty Mountains Wilderness Walks](http://nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/misty-mountains/pdf/misty-mountains-general-map.pdf) in the Tully Gorge and Wooroonooran National Parks [<http://nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/misty-mountains/pdf/misty-mountains-general-map.pdf>] and connect eventually with the [Palmerston Highway near Henrietta Creek](#) and the [Kennedy Highway near Ravenshoe](#).

[Blue-faced Parrot-Finch](#) is a possibility here where there are tall grasses fringing the rainforest and [Southern Cassowary](#) occurs in the rainforest.

- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Mission Beach Area: Map & Links



- [The Kennedy Track](#)
- [Mission Beach](#)
- [Djiru National Park](#)
- [Licuala Day-use Area](#)
- [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#)
- [Clump Mountain National Park](#)
- [Dunk Island](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

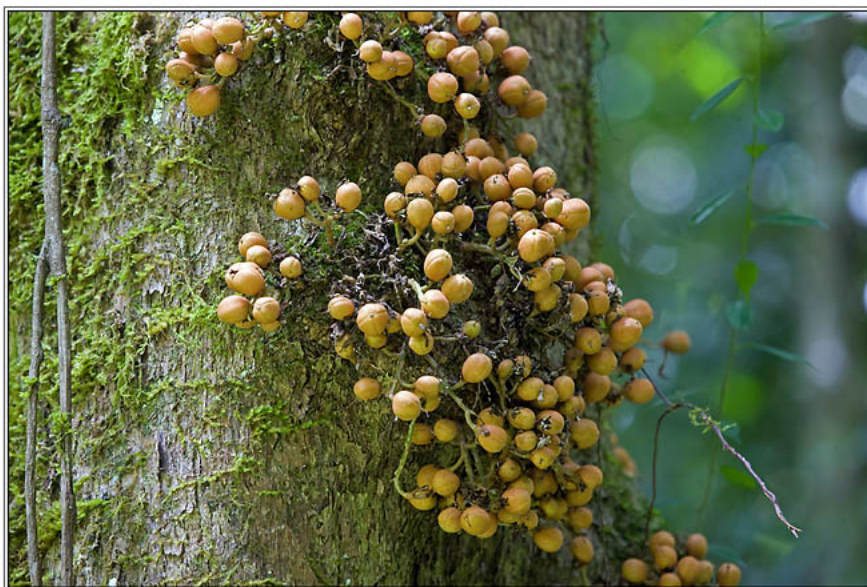
The Kennedy Track

The Edmund Kennedy Memorial Walking Track commemorates the 1848 expedition by the first Europeans known to have explored this area. From its landing spot near Tam O'Shanter Point - named after their ship - the group, led by Edmund Besley Court Kennedy, first made its way south, attempting to find a way inland. A place to leave the coast was found south of Wreck Creek, in what is now Edmund Kennedy National Park. The ill-fated party then made their way north to Princess Charlotte Bay and Cape York.



Start of the Kennedy Track on South Mission Beach

The Kennedy Track, which was built by the local community with government support, starts near the boat ramp at South Mission Beach (there are two boat ramps: the track starts at the one at the southern end of the beach). It leads through beach, hillside, and rocky sections, passes through palm glades, rainforest and mangroves for 3.9km, and reaches a picnic area at Kennedy Bay in the Hull River National Park.



Fruit of Cauliflorous Tree - Yellow Mahogany

Along the track there is the chance of [Cassowary](#) as well as an assured range of lowland rainforest bird species. There are sometimes [Beach Stone-curlew](#) at the start of the track. Watch for cauliflorous trees, found only in tropical rainforest, which have flowers and fruit growing straight from the trunk. They are of several different genera and attract birds as well as bats, which act as pollinators.

- [Return to Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Mission Beach

This is an area where dense, coastal rainforest once fringed beautiful, sandy beaches, with views across to Dunk, Bedarra and the other Family Islands. Unfortunately, large areas of the lowland rainforest and melaleuca woodland have been destroyed for residential and tourist development and banana farms, thus removing much of the habitat that is vital for the survival of the [Cassowary](#).



Mission Beach

Even so, the **Mission Beach** area still has the highest density of [Southern Cassowary](#) in northern Queensland and positive steps are being taken to ensure its survival. These include re-vegetation projects and research into its biology. Information about these projects and details of recent sightings are available from the 4C (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation [<http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au>]) information centre at Porters Promenade near the caravan park at Mission Beach.



Torresian Imperial Pigeons Returning to Island Breeding Sites

If visiting between October and January, watch from the beach at dawn to see thousands of [Torresian Imperial-Pigeons](#) flying in small flocks towards the mainland to feed. In the late afternoon until dark the pigeons return to the offshore islands where they breed.

No camping is allowed in the state forest or national parks, but there are caravan parks as well as holiday units, hostels, bed and breakfasts and motels.

- [Return to Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Djiru National Park

Two former state forest areas - **Licuala** and **Lacey Creek** - are designated as day-use areas in Djiru National Park, which protects most of the forest behind the developed areas along the coast between South Mission Beach and Garners Beach. Both have walking tracks of interest. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/djiru/index.html>].

Licuala Day-use Area

A narrow dirt road off the Tully-Mission Beach Road leads to the car park of the **Licuala** day-use area, named after the spectacular fan-shaped palms, which are found only in restricted areas of lowland rainforest.



Licuala Palm

Three walking tracks start here, a 400m loop for children, a 1.3km loop called the Fan Palm Walk, and the Musgravea track (named after a rainforest tree), which connects to the El Arish Road and the Lacey Creek day-use area.

The Fan Palm Walk is part track and part boardwalk. There are usually few birds along the actual boardwalk, but the walking track between the car park and each end of the boardwalk is more productive.



The Boardwalk Through the Licuala Palms

The energetic can go on the 4km Musgravea track to the El Arish Road which links

to a 2.2km Dreaming trail to Lacey Creek. The less energetic can drive there directly via the El Arish Road.

- [Return to Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Lacey Creek Day-use Area

Located on the El Arish-Mission Beach Road, this small park has a 1km walking circuit track through lowland rainforest with the chance of [Cassowary](#).



Lacey Creek

The many species to be found here include [Grey Whistler](#), [Spotted Catbird](#), [Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#), various fruit-eating doves and pigeons, [Graceful](#) and [Yellow-spotted Honeyeaters](#), [Black Butcherbird](#), [Pale-yellow Robin](#), [Pied](#) and [Spectacled Monarch](#). On the ground, watch for [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#), [Chowchilla](#) and [Red-necked Crake](#) along the creek.

There are picnic tables, toilets and a Cassowary display, but no camping is allowed.

- [Return to Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Clump Mountain National Park

This 301ha national park, adjoining Djiru National Park, is near Bingil Bay, about 3km north of Mission Beach. A 2km track leads up through rainforest to a lookout on the top of Bicton Hill. On clear days there are magnificent views of Dunk Island and the Family Islands. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/clump-mountain/index.html>].



Bingil Bay from near the Start of the Clump Mountain Track

Little Shrike-thrush, [Spectacled Monarch](#), [Black Butcherbird](#), [Emerald Dove](#) and various fruit-eating doves and pigeons can be seen in the forest. In summer [Metallic Starling](#), [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) and [Torresian Imperial-Pigeon](#) also occur.



Start of Clump Mountain Track to Bicton Hill Lookout

If you are short of time, the birding is better at [Lacey Creek](#) or [Licuala](#) day-use areas.

- [Return to Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Dunk Island

Dunk is probably the best-known tropical island in Australia, thanks to the writings of E J Banfield, the Beachcomber, who lived here with his wife from 1897 to 1923 and wrote four books about the island and its natural history.



Dunk Island from Mission Beach

Dunk and the other Family Islands [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/family-islands/>] certainly come close to the popular idea of tropical paradise, with lush green vegetation, coral sand, clear water and fringing coral reefs. Most of the island is national park and 13km of walking tracks allow access to many different habitats.

From the resort, a 7km circuit walk takes you up the graded track through dense rainforest to the summit of Mt Kootaloo. [Noisy Pitta](#) is often seen on this section.

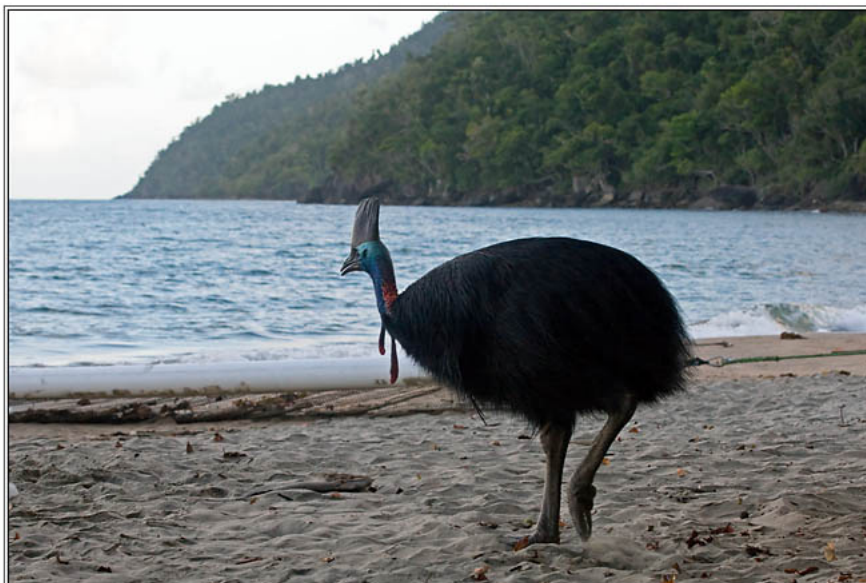
From Mt Kootaloo, the track leads down through Palm Valley to Coconut Bay, then back to the resort via the western coast of the island. Watch for [Bush](#) and [Beach Stone-curlew](#) along the beach and [Shining Flycatcher](#) in the mangroves at the end of the runway. [White-rumped Swiftlets](#), which breed in caves on the inaccessible eastern side of the island, drink from the dam behind the resort in the evening.

There are a limited number of camping sites in the national park near the jetty. For permits book online at [<https://www.dunk-island.com/camping>]. The resort at Brammo Bay, destroyed by cyclone Yasi, remains closed (April 2018); check on progress here [<https://www.dunk-island.com>]. Ferry services leave from Clump Point and water taxis operate from South Mission Beach and Wongaling Beach. If you don't have time for an extended stay, a day trip is most rewarding.

- [Return to Mission Beach Area: Map & Links.](#)
- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Etty Bay and Mourilyan Harbour

This delightful small bay is surrounded by rainforest where there's a good chance of [Southern Cassowary](#). Waders recorded here include [Wandering Tattler](#) and [Beach Stone-curlew](#).



Etty Bay

The caravan park and picnic tables overlook the beach: 07 4063 2314; [<http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/caravanning-and-camping>]. During summer, a stinger exclusion net is installed and the beach is popular at weekends. To get there, turn east at Mourilyan, 9km south of Innisfail towards Mourilyan Harbour, then turn left after 3km.



Mourilyan Harbour

Mourilyan Harbour has extensive mangroves and mud flats. It is good for mangrove species including [Striated Heron](#), [Little Kingfisher](#), and waders such as [Beach Stone-curlew](#), [Whimbrel](#) and [Grey-tailed Tattler](#). Mourilyan Food and Fishing, 07 4063 2911, on the right just before the harbour, can arrange guided and unguided boat tours - if given adequate notice - and can provide pack lunches.

- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Coquette Point

Coquette Point is at the mouth of the Johnstone River on the southern side, in the northern end of Moresby Range National Park, an area of dense rainforest. Cross the river in the town and follow signs, mostly turning left through the suburbs of Innisfail along the river. Watch for [cassowaries](#) crossing the road. A little further on, past the houses, drive down a very steep hill, park and walk to the right through the mangroves to the beach. Accessible only at low tide, this area can be very rewarding. Go prepared for sandflies!



Looking South from Coquette Point

[Collared](#), [Sacred](#), [Azure](#) and [Little](#) Kingfisher, [Mangrove Robin](#), [Great-billed Heron](#), [Large-billed](#) and [Fairy](#) Gerygone, [Beach Stone-curlew](#) and various waders including [Sanderling](#), are among the birds found in the mangroves, along the beach and in the adjoining coastal scrub.

- [Return to Tully to Innisfail: Map & Links.](#)

Innisfail to Cairns

Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links

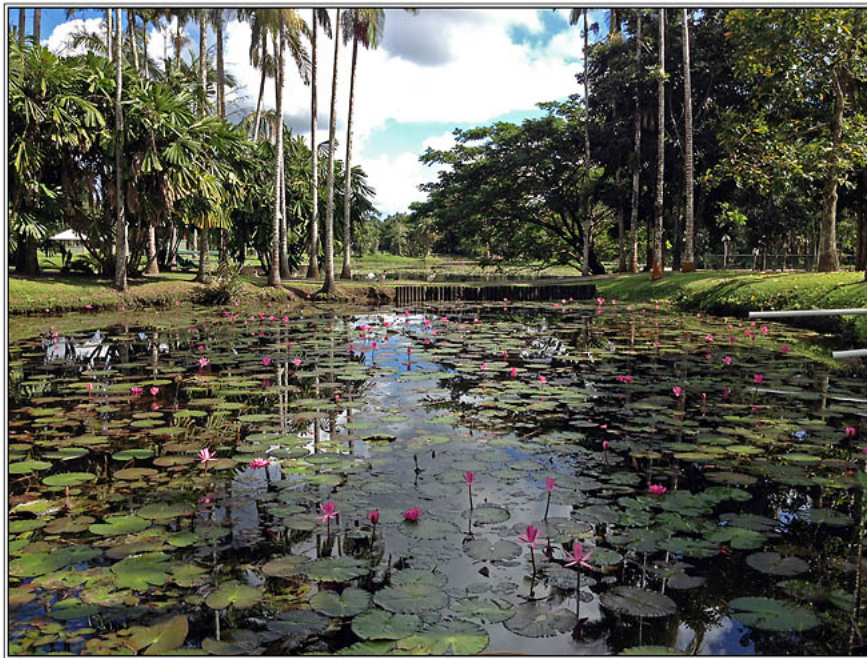


- [Innisfail](#)
- [Flying Fish Point](#)
- [The 'Jubilee Highway'](#)
- [Eubenangee Swamp National Park](#)
- [Bramston Beach](#)
- [Wooroonooran National Park](#)
- [Josephine Falls](#)
- [The Boulders](#)

- [Wrights Creek](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Innisfail

Innisfail, a large town on the Johnstone River, is the commercial centre for the surrounding sugar cane and tea growing areas. The Palmerston Highway to the Atherton Tableland is just north of the town. A colony of [Metallic Starlings](#) nest in a fig tree in Anzac Memorial Park on the Cairns side of town.



Warrina Lakes, Innisfail

Warrina Lakes Park is close to the centre of town. Best visited in the early morning or late afternoon, you may find [Black Bittern](#), [Bush-hen](#), [Shining Flycatcher](#), [Spectacled Monarch](#), and [Fairy](#) and [Large-billed](#) Gerygone. In the dry season native ducks out-number the feral ones.

- [Guiding and Tours](#): Kirrama Wildlife Tours.
- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#).

Flying Fish Point

Flying Fish Point has a caravan park and is a pleasant place to stay near Innisfail. [Beach Stone-Curlew](#) occurs on the beach here.



Flying Fish Point

The road to Flying Fish Point continues past the town to the southern part of Ella Bay National Park. The park is divided into two sections by an area cleared for grazing. Plans for a \$1.4 billion resort on this land have recently been given government approval and it is no longer possible to reach the beach by car, though it can be reached on foot.



Ella Bay National Park

The Johnstone River Crocodile Farm, between Innisfail and Flying Fish Point, is no longer open to public.

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

The 'Jubilee Highway'

A quieter alternative to the Bruce Highway, Jubilee Road runs north from Flying Fish Point Road. It is a quiet road, unsealed for the first section, where it is possible to pull over and birdwatch in the dense lowland rainforest. There is the chance of a [Cassowary](#) and at Polly Creek check for lowland rainforest species such as [Pied](#)

Monarch, Graceful Honeyeater and White-eared Monarch. At Polly Creek there is a swimming hole in Bob Moyle Park.



Swimming Hole on Polly Creek in Bob Moyle Park

The road continues through cane fields around Daradgee. One kilometre past Daradgee, Jubilee Road turns left at Peggys Corner and joins the Bruce Highway. Alternatively, continue straight past Peggys Corner on Garradunga Road which becomes Dinner Creek Road after Garradunga, where Barn Swallows have been recorded in summer. Turn west into Cartwright Road, over Alice River, past the entrance to Eubenangee Swamp and join the Bramston Beach Road. Turn east to go to Bramston Beach or west to the Bruce Highway near Mirriwinni.

- Return to Innisfail to Cairns: [Map & Links](#)

Eubenangee Swamp National Park

This wetland area is fed by streams from the Bellenden Ker Range. Its three main adjacent habitats of water, reeds and open grassland, and riverine vine forest make it an excellent spot for a wide range of species. These include Great-billed Heron, Black Bittern, Black-necked Stork, crakes and rails, Black Butcherbird, Shining Flycatcher and Crimson Finch. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/eubenangee-swamp/index.html>].



Eubenangee Swamp

A 1.5km walking track follows the edge of the Alice River before ascending a grassy hill. Camping is not allowed and there are no facilities. When water levels are high this track may be closed because of the presence of salt-water crocodiles.

South of Babinda, follow the national park signs on the Bramston Beach road. Turn south at Cartright Road and follow this road to the carpark at the park entrance.

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

Bramston Beach

Nine kilometres from Eubenangee Swamp is **Bramston Beach**. [Beach Stone-curlews](#) are usually here, north of the village and south of the creek. The area south of the creek is inaccessible at high tide.

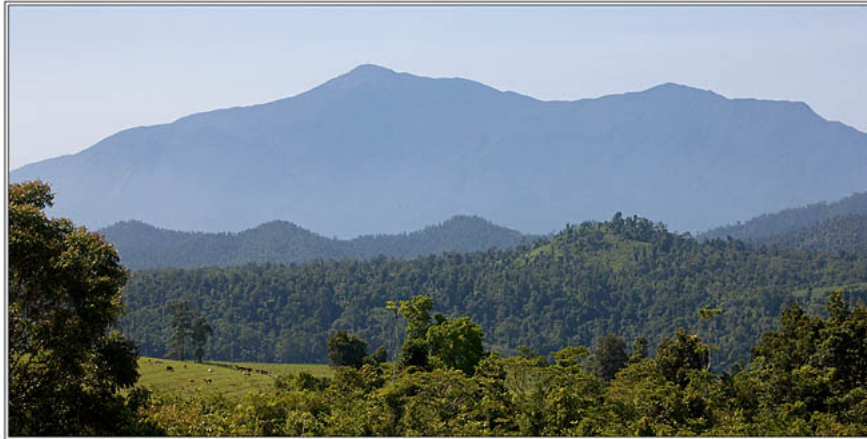


Creek at Northern End of Bramston Beach

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

Wooroonooran National Park

The Bellenden Ker Range can be seen to the west of the Bruce Highway, between Gordonvale and the Russell River crossing. This large park contains vast tracts of upland rainforest and the highest mountain in Queensland, Mt Bartle Frere (1657m). Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran/index.html>].



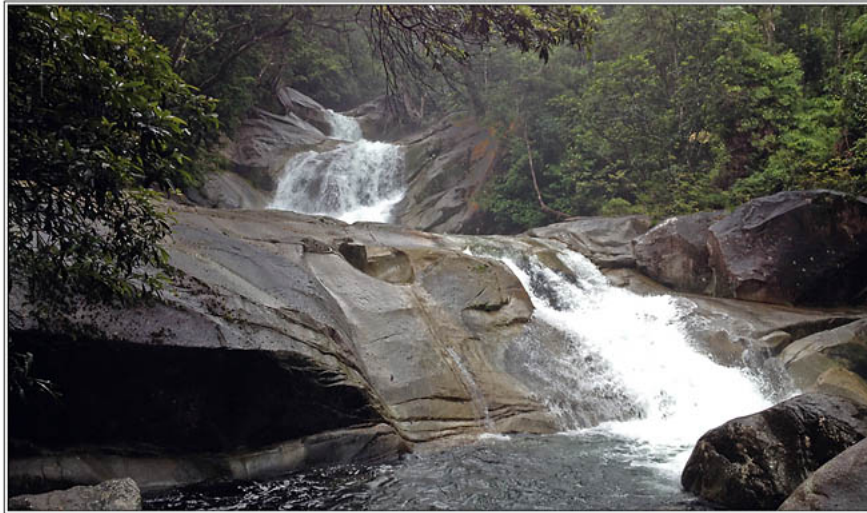
Mount Bartle Frere from the Palmerston Highway

[Josephine Falls](#), [The Boulders](#), [Goldsborough Valley](#), and [Palmerston](#) are all included in this park but are accessible by different routes and included in the corresponding chapters.

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

Josephine Falls

Josephine Falls are at the southern end of the Bellenden Ker Range. From the turnoff on the Bruce Highway, 2km south of Mirriwinni, it is 8km to the park headquarters. An 800m track leads to the falls through dense lowland rainforest. Picnic tables and toilets are provided but camping is not permitted. The hiking track to Mt Bartle Frere, a strenuous 2-day walk, also starts here.

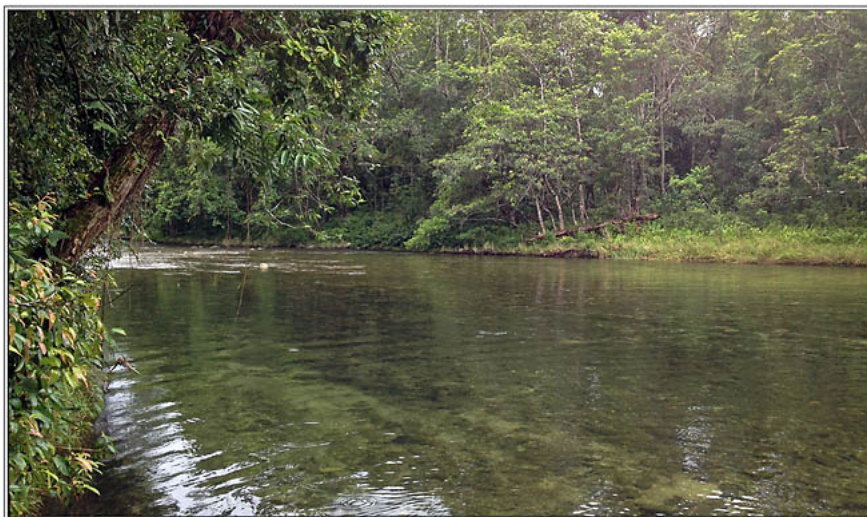


Josephine Falls

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

The Boulders

At Babinda, turn west and follow the narrow road through the cane fields for 6km to **The Boulders**, a pleasant picnic area and swimming hole. Tracks lead through the lowland rainforest to vantage points above the rapids, and the 18km Goldfields Track to Goldsborough Valley starts here.



Swimming Hole at The Boulders

A variety of lowland rainforest birds may be around the picnic area and there is often an [Azure Kingfisher](#) flashing up the creek. A basic but free camping area with a maximum stay of two nights is just outside the park.

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

Wrights Creek

In summer months it is worth checking for [Little Curlew](#) or [\(Eastern\) Yellow Wagtail](#) at the turf farm on Hill Road - not to be confused with nearby Hall Road - approx 7km north of Gordonvale and 4km south of Edmonton. The farm is 1.3km from the highway on the corner of France Road.



Turf Farm on Hill Road, Wrights Creek

Waders such as [Black-fronted Dotterel](#), [Pacific Golden Plover](#) and [Sharp-tailed Sandpiper](#) may be present, along with grassland species such as [Australasian Pipit](#).

- Return to [Innisfail to Cairns: Map & Links](#)

Cairns Area

Cairns Area: Map & Links

The southern part of the Bruce Highway, between the Mulgrave Road intersection and the city centre, is new. Before it was constructed the highway continued along Mulgrave Road to Sheridan Street and, from the south, this is still a convenient way to access the city and to reach the Cairns Western Arterial Road.



There are two main routes through Cairns from south to north, one coastal, the other

inland. The coastal route consists of the Bruce Highway to the south and the Captain Cook Highway to the north, connected by Sheridan Street through the city centre.

The inland route is the Cairns Western Arterial Road which is accessed from the south via Mulgrave Road and Alfred Street. At the northern end it joins the Captain Cook Highway just south of Smithfield.

All the birding locations in this chapter can be reached by driving through Cairns in a loop, as shown in red on the map. The corresponding sections in this chapter are arranged accordingly, starting with the Esplanade near the city centre, travelling counter-clockwise and finishing with those reached by ferry from The Pier - Green Island and Michaelmas Cay - at the southeastern end of the city centre:

- [Information about Cairns](#)
- [Accommodation in Cairns](#)
- [Useful Addresses & Contacts in Cairns](#)
- [Cairns Esplanade](#)
- [Map of Centenary Lakes Area](#)
- [The Cairns Botanic Gardens](#)
- [Centenary Lakes](#)
- [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#)
- [Cairns Cemetery](#)
- [Cairns Central Swamps](#)
- [Mangrove Boardwalk](#)
- [Redden Island](#)
- [Lower Freshwater Rd](#)
- [Glenoma Park](#)
- [Goomboora Park](#)
- [Lake Morris or Copperlode Falls Dam](#)
- [Ivan Evans Walk](#)
- [Green Island](#)
- [Michaelmas Cay National Park](#)

See also the [map of the Centenary Lakes area](#), which shows in more detail, including walking tracks, a number of central birding areas that can easily be visited on foot.

- **[Return to Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Information about Cairns

Cairns has long been a favourite destination with birdwatchers from southern states, especially in the winter months. Now, with its international airport, it is often the first port of call for overseas visitors. From a sleepy sugar town in the 1960s, Cairns has grown to be the busiest tourist centre in northern Queensland, with multi-storeyed hotels and a population of over 150,000.

The wide range of habitats within easy reach of the city makes Cairns a top birding destination. Over 300 species have been recorded in the nearby coastal swamps, grassland, open woodland, mangroves, lowland and upland rainforest, rivers,

mudflats, suburban parks and farmland.



View of Cairns from the Road to Lake Morris

- Guiding and Tours: [Ben Blewitt](#), [Martin Cohen](#).

Accommodation in Cairns

There is a complete range of accommodation to suit all budgets, from luxury hotels and motels to backpacker hostels and caravan parks.

The Cairns Holiday Park, in James Street, is within walking distance of top birding spots such as The Esplanade and Centenary Lakes, but should be booked ahead during the May to October season and during school holidays. [<https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/cairns/>], 1800 559 800. [Yellow Oriole](#), [Black Butcherbird](#), [Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#) and [Metallic Starling](#) have been seen in the grounds.

Caravan parks at beach suburbs to the north of the city and Lake Placid are quieter and also have prolific birdlife.

Useful Addresses & Contacts in Cairns

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Far Northern Region: PO Box 2066, Cairns, Qld 4870.

The QPWS Information Centre has maps and brochures for the national parks in the Far Northern Area: Level 4, 5B Sheridan Street, Cairns; 07 4046 6600.

Wet Tropics Management Authority, Ground Floor, Cairns Port Authority, Cnr Grafton and Hartley Street, Cairns, Qld 4870; 07 4241 0500; [wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au]; [<http://www.wettropics.gov.au>].

The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) has information on local environmental issues: Cominos House, 27-29 Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill, Qld 4870; 07 4032 1746; [admin@cafneec.org.au]; [<http://cafneec.org.au>].

Collins Books carries a good range of natural history books: Shop 141, Smithfield

Shopping Centre, Kennedy Hwy, Smithfield, Qld 4878; 07 4038 1786; [websales@collinsbooks.com.au]; [<http://www.collinsbooks.com.au>].

Absell's Chart and Map Centre has a huge selection of maps, charts and travel books: Reef Fleet Terminal, 1 Spence Street, Cairns, Qld 4870; 07 4041 2699.

The Green House Environment Shop has natural history books, cards, posters, toys and T-shirts and a percentage of profits goes to local conservation groups: 55 Spence Street, Cairns, Qld 4870; 07 4031 8787; [shop@greenhousecairns.com.au]; [<http://www.greenhousecairns.com.au>].

Rusty's Market has the atmosphere of a south-east Asian market with good quality, cheap, local produce for sale from Friday till Sunday: 57-89 Grafton Street, between Shields and Spence Street, Cairns, Qld 4870; 07 4040 2705; 0438 753 460; [rustysmarkets@gilligans.com.au]; [<http://www.rustysmarkets.com.au>].

The Tourist Train to Kuranda leaves Cairns Railway Station every morning, and is renowned for its spectacular views of the coastal plain, rainforest, Barron Gorge and the Barron Falls. The Kuranda Railway Station, at 330m above sea level, is famous for its exotic garden with orchids and ferns.

Contact the Tourist Train at the Cairns Railway Station: 9 Bunda Street, Cairns, Qld 4870; 1800 577 245; 07 4036 9333; [<http://www.ksr.com.au/Pages/Default.aspx>]. It is shown on the [Cairns Area Map](#). Bunda Street runs between the Bruce Highway and Mulgrave Road one block west of Sheridan Street, just south of the city centre.

The **Skyrail** is another, but more expensive, way to reach Kuranda. It is a cableway that travels, sometimes only a few metres, over the rainforest canopy. At the two stops en route there are displays and interpretive information, and a variety of rainforest species can be seen from the canopy-level boardwalks. It is possible to buy tickets to travel one way by Skyrail and return on the train or vice versa.

The Skyrail terminal is 14km north of Cairns on the Western Arterial Road close to the Captain Cook Highway: Corner Captain Cook Hwy and Cairns Western Arterial Road, Smithfield, Qld 4878; 07 4038 5555; [mail@skyrail.com.au]; [<http://www.skyrail.com.au>]. It is shown on the [Cairns Area Map](#).

BirdsLife Northern Queensland provides up-to-date bird lists that can be downloaded from the website: [<http://birdlifeq.org>].

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Cairns Esplanade

Within walking distance of the city centre, the **Esplanade** is one of the most accessible areas for observing migratory waders in northern Queensland. An amazing 220 bird species have been recorded on the mudflats and in the adjacent parkland. Numbers are greatest from September to March when up to 2000 waders have been counted. At the beginning and end of the 'season', many may be in partial or complete breeding plumage.

There is a tidal range of 3m, and best viewing is at mid or incoming tide in the afternoon when the light is best. Tide times are published in the local Cairns Post or

see [<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/tides/>].



Viewing Platform on Cairns Esplanade

Waders usually present include [Eastern Curlew](#), [Whimbrel](#), [Lesser Sand Plover](#), [Pacific Golden Plover](#), [Greenshank](#), [Grey-tailed Tattler](#), [Curlew Sandpiper](#), [Ruddy Turnstone](#), [Red-necked Stint](#), [Bar-tailed](#) and [Black-tailed Godwit](#), [Great Knot](#), and [Broad-billed](#), [Terek](#) and [Sharp-tailed Sandpiper](#). [Pied Heron](#) is occasionally recorded.

Rarities include [Franklin's Gull](#), [Laughing Gull](#), [Double-banded Plover](#), [Asian Dowitcher](#) [Common Redshank](#), [Long-toed Stint](#) and [Pectoral Sandpiper](#).

Although September to March is the best time to visit, there are always some waders over-wintering here. Other species, such as [Striated Heron](#), [Eastern Reef Egret](#), [Masked Lapwing](#), [Australian White Ibis](#), [Royal Spoonbill](#), [Australian Pelican](#) and all three egrets are here in winter.

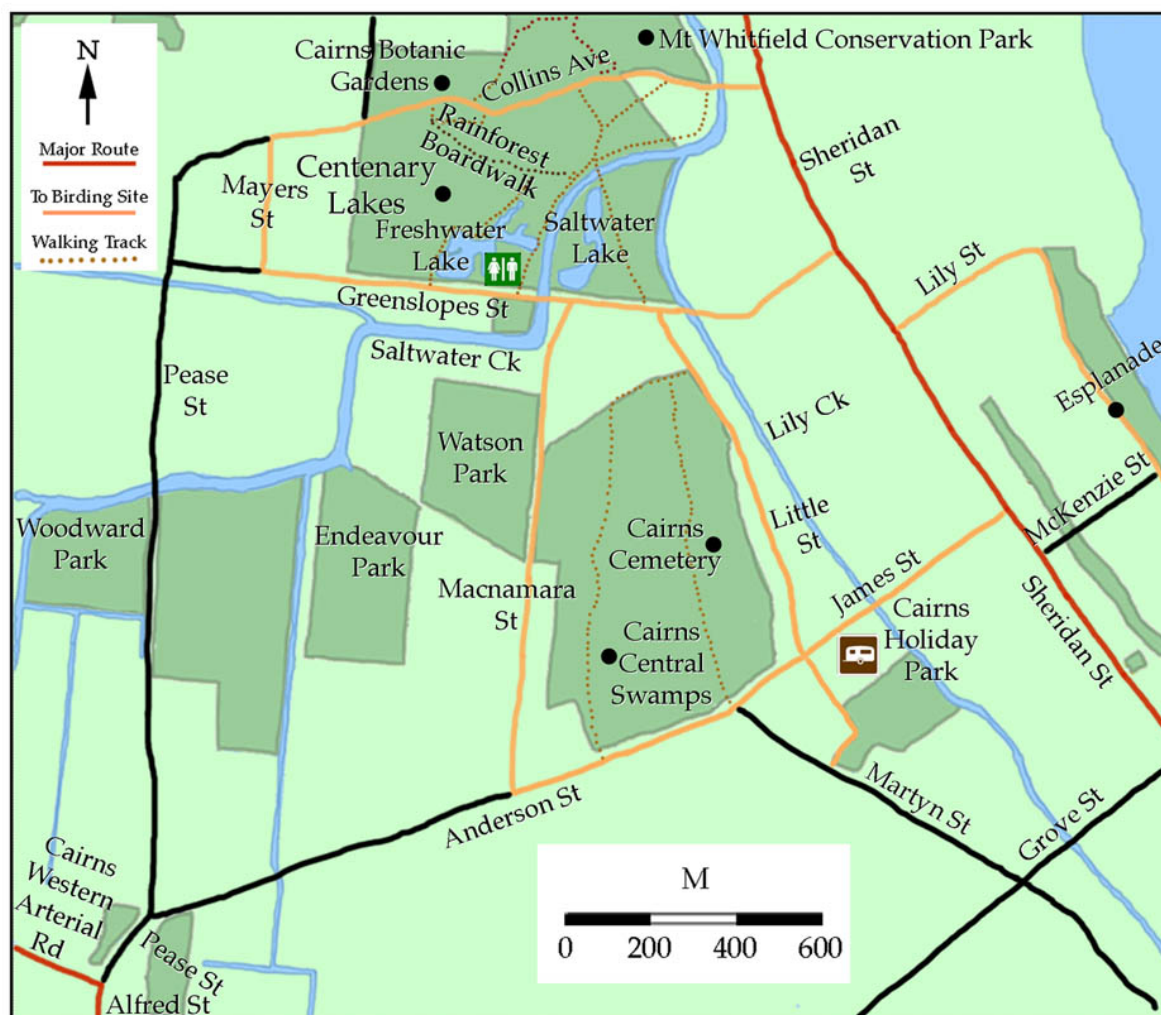
In the adjoining parkland there are [Varied](#) and [Yellow Honeyeater](#), [Spangled Drongo](#), [Olive-backed Sunbird](#), [Bar-shouldered](#) and [Peaceful Dove](#), and during the summer months [Channel-billed Cuckoo](#), [Koel](#) and [Metallic Starling](#).

Soon after dawn, small flocks of [Torresian Imperial-Pigeons](#) fly from the islands where they breed, to feed on the mainland. In late afternoon, the birds fly back to their nests. Some stay on the mainland, and at the northern end of the Esplanade there is a substantial nesting colony in the mangroves.

Plans to reclaim the muddy foreshore for tourist development have been rejected and the new boardwalk and displays are an asset for birders.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Centenary Lakes Area: Map & Links



- [The Cairns Botanic Gardens](#)
- [Centenary Lakes](#)
- [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#)
- [Cairns Cemetery](#)
- [Cairns Central Swamps](#)

The Cairns Botanic Gardens

The **Cairns Botanic Gardens** (formerly the Flecker Botanic Gardens), **Centenary Lakes** and **Mount Whitfield Conservation Park** are adjoining areas in North Cairns, within easy walking distance of the Cairns Holiday Park or a short drive north along Sheridan Street.



Cairns (Flecker) Botanic Gardens

The Cairns Botanic Gardens are on the northern side of Collins Avenue. Pamphlets are available at the Visitors Centre for self-guided walks of the Botanic Gardens, the Jungle Boardwalk, the Aboriginal Plant Use Garden, host plants of the Butterfly Trail and Mt Whitfield Conservation Park. The Fernery, with its display of rare plants and orchids, is usually well worth a visit but was closed for reconstruction in April 2014. The restaurant is open for morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

- Return to [Centenary Lakes Area: Map & Links](#)
- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Centenary Lakes

Centenary Lakes are artificial, created in 1976, and attract a variety of waterbirds, including egrets, herons, spoonbills and duck. [Green Pygmy-Goose](#), [Australian Pelican](#) and [Comb-crested Jacana](#) have all been seen here. In the reeds at the edge of the water, [White-browed Crake](#), [Bush-hen](#) and [Little Kingfisher](#) can be seen if you are lucky.

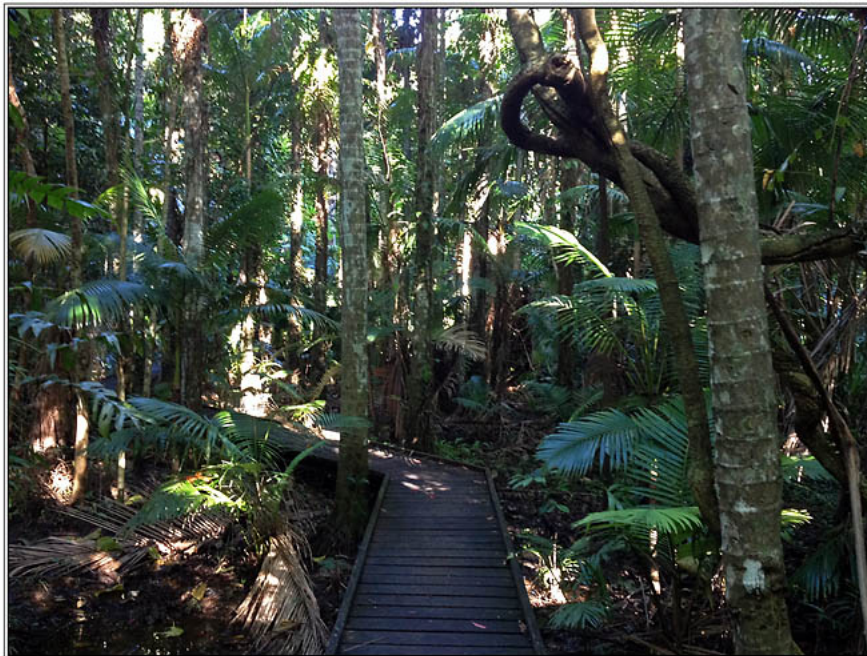
The mangrove-lined channel nearby is tidal. A [Common Sandpiper](#) is often on the bank in summer and [Large-billed Gerygone](#) lives in the mangroves. In the eucalypt parkland around the lakes are [Yellow Honeyeater](#), [Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#), [White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike](#), [Rainbow](#) and [Scaly-breasted Lorikeet](#) and occasionally, [Pacific Baza](#). From November to March watch for the dome-shaped paperbark nests of [Brown-backed Honeyeater](#), often built suspended over water.



Centenary Lakes: Freshwater Lake from Greenslopes Street

The Rainforest Boardwalk takes you through an otherwise impenetrable area of dense coastal swamp vegetation, with Red Beech, Fan and Alexandra Palms, Pandanus and huge melaleucas.

[Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#) walking noisily through the leaf litter are easier to find than the [Red-necked Crane](#), which you are more likely to see in the late afternoon, stepping furtively along the small creek that runs through the middle. [Black Butcherbird](#), [Yellow Oriole](#) and [Spectacled Monarch](#) are also found here.



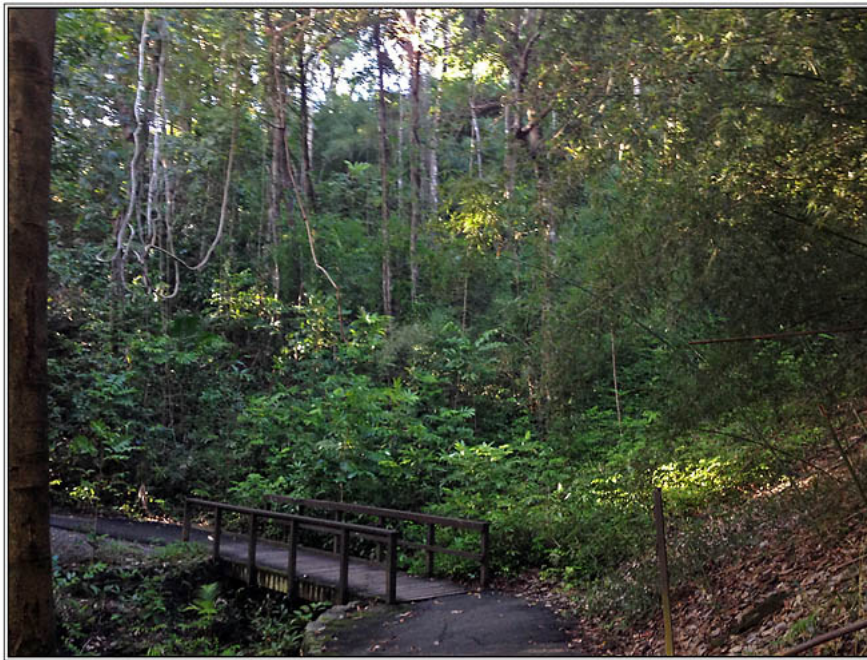
Centenary Lakes: the Rainforest Boardwalk

- Return to [Centenary Lakes Area: Map & Links](#)
- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Mount Whitfield Conservation Park

Mount Whitfield Conservation Park is adjacent to the Botanic Gardens. Two walking tracks, the 1.3km Red Arrow Circuit and the more rugged 5.4km Blue Arrow Circuit, lead up through a variety of habitats to a vantage point with stunning views of the coastal plain and Cairns.

Access is either by walking past the Visitors' Centre at the Botanic Gardens or from Collins Avenue closer to Sheridan Street. These two paths join in an inverted-V at the start of the Red Arrow Circuit. The Blue Arrow Circuit loops off the northern part of the Red Arrow Circuit, the two circuits forming a figure 8. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/mount-whitfield/index.html>].



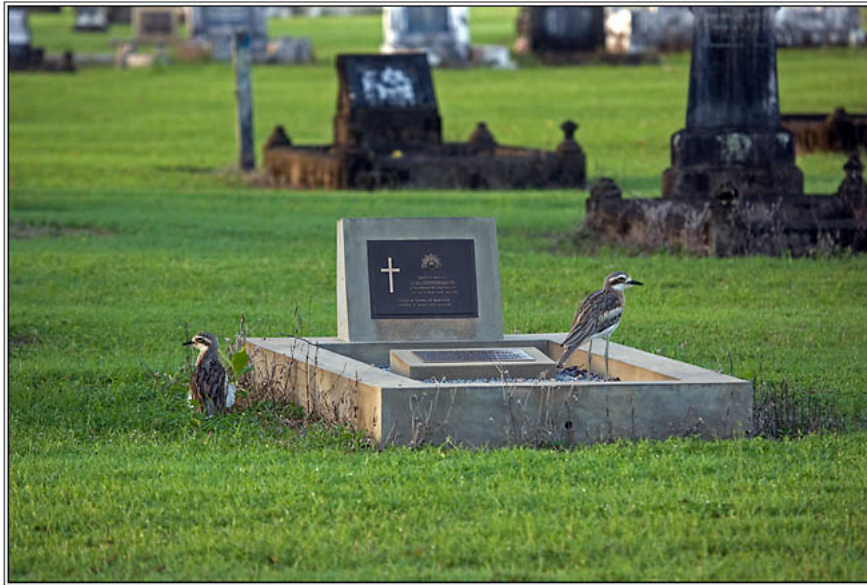
Mt Whitfield Conservation Park

Along both tracks is a wide range of species, including [Noisy Pitta](#), [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#), [Pale-yellow Robin](#), [Varied Triller](#), [Grey Whistler](#) and [Red-backed Fairy-wren](#). It can be hot at any time of year, so carry water with you. The Red Arrow Circuit is popular with joggers in the evening.

- Return to [Centenary Lakes Area: Map & Links](#)
- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Cairns Cemetery

From the lakes you can return to the Cairns Holiday Park or the City via Little Street, where [Bush Stone-curlew](#) is often found in the cemetery. There is an ibis and egret roost and a huge [Osprey](#) nest on the other side of the creek on the left.



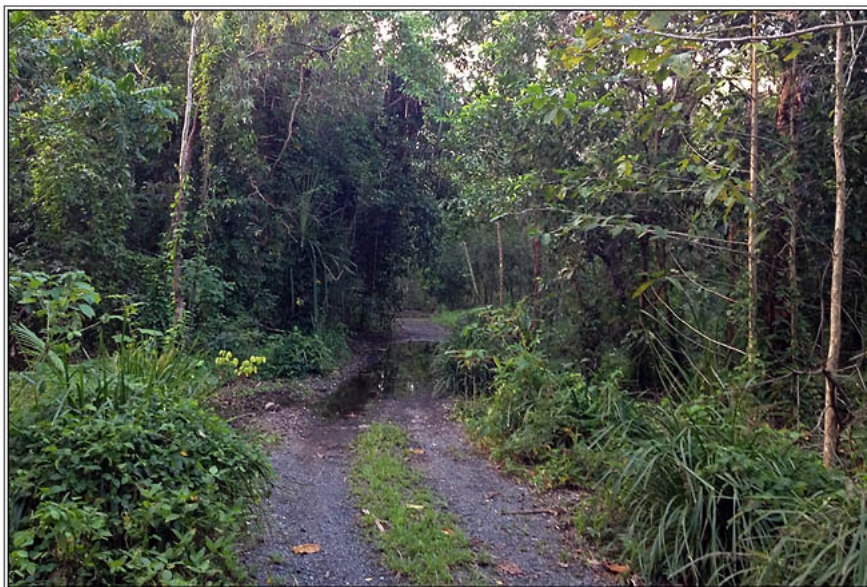
Cairns Cemetery near Anderson St

- Return to [Centenary Lakes Area: Map & Link](#)
- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Cairns Central Swamps

The Cairns Central Swamps are fragmented remnants of the coastal beach-ridges and swale swamps which once covered most of the Cairns area.

The new Anderson Street walk begins east of the ambulance station on the corner of Macnamara Street and comes out at the back of the cemetery close to the Saltwater Lake in Centenary Lakes. [Rufous Owl](#) and [Oriental Cuckoo](#) are among the species that may be here.



Cairns Central Swamps

- Return to [Centenary Lakes Area: Map & Links](#)
- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Mangrove Boardwalk

On the road to the airport terminals, two boardwalks have been constructed through the mangroves. A brochure on the boardwalk is available from a box at the car park or from the Cairns City Council.

The Northern Route to Middle Creek is a 700m loop, which includes viewing platforms and a canopy tower. The 600m Southern Route to Swampy Creek winds through a section of impressively tall mangrove forest and ends at a viewing tower which overlooks the mudflats and the city.



Mangrove Boardwalk

Both walks have interpretive signs explaining the ecology of the area and many of the mangrove species are labelled.

The area sometimes appears not particularly rich in birdlife, but [Collared](#) and [Little](#) Kingfisher, [Mangrove Robin](#) and [Shining Flycatcher](#) have been recorded here, as well as the more common [Lovely Fairy-Wren](#), [Large-billed](#) and [Fairy](#) Gerygone, [Olive-backed Sunbird](#), [Brown](#) and [Varied](#) Honeyeater and [Helmeted Friarbird](#).

As with all mangrove areas, sandflies and mosquitos are prevalent. Be prepared! Apply repellent before starting on either of the walks.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Redden Island

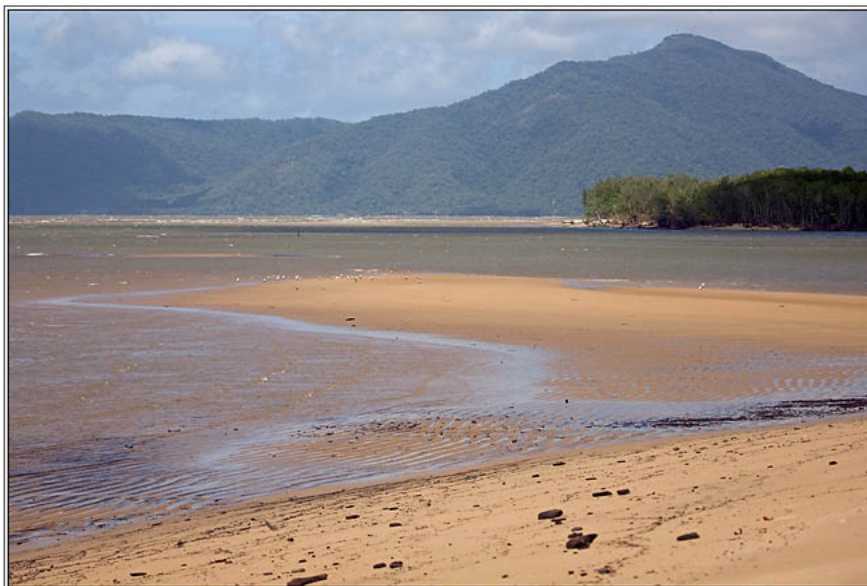
Redden Island is an interesting small reserve, containing mangroves, beaches and

the closest eucalypt woodland to the city. It is bounded by the Barron River, Redden Creek and the Coral Sea, and can be reached from Machans Beach along Marshall Street where there is an interpretive sign and a gate to a foot path which runs through the woodland to the river.



Redden Island

The woodland supports species such as [Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove](#), Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo, [Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#), and [Black Butcherbird](#) and in summer, [Dollarbird](#). [Collared Kingfisher](#) breeds near the Barron River, and there's a good chance of seeing [Great-billed Heron](#) along Redden Creek.



Mouth of the Barron River

Waders and terns such as [Gull-billed](#) are mainly found on sandbars at the mouth of the Barron River which can be reached by continuing along Cinderella St to the car park beside the water.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Lower Freshwater Road

Lower Freshwater Road is the closest place to the city to see grassland species such as [Golden-headed Cisticola](#), [Tawny Grassbird](#), [Crimson Finch](#), [Chestnut-breasted Mannikin](#) and [Horsfield's Bushlark](#).



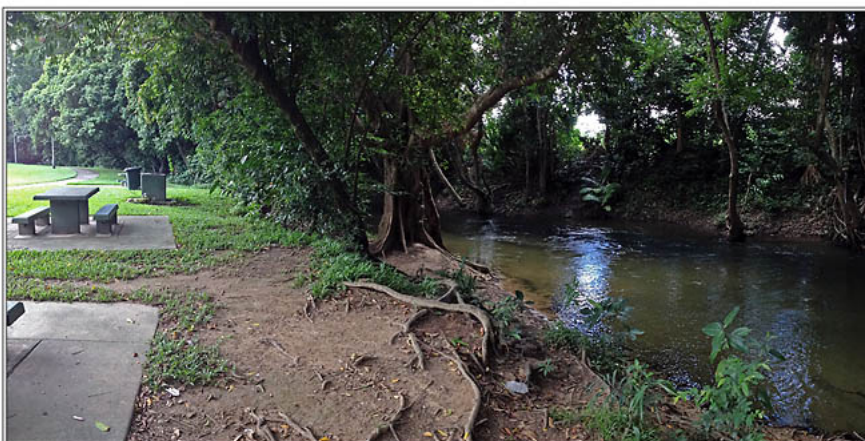
Looking Westwards Along Lower Freshwater Rd

Access is from the Cairns Western Arterial Road via Harley Street, south and east of the bridge over the Barron River.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Glenoma Park

Glenoma Park, on the west side of the Cairns Western Arterial Road in Brinsmead between Brinsmead-Kamerunga Road and View Street, is a pleasant spot for a picnic by Freshwater Creek.



Freshwater Creek at Glenoma Park Picnic Area

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Goomboora Park

Goomboora Park is also on the west side of the Cairns Western Arterial Road in Brinsmead behind Cool Waters Caravan Park. It is accessible via View Street and Shale Street. It has a picnic area and there is the possibility of a [Bush-hen](#) along the banks of the creek.



Freshwater Creek at Goomboora Park

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Lake Morris or Copperlode Falls Dam

Lake Morris or Copperlode Falls Dam is the source of the urban water supply and the closest upland rainforest to Cairns. The 16km Lake Morris Road starts from Brinsmead Road, gains altitude in the first 8km, and is then undulating until the park gates. It is interesting to note the gradual change in species from the lowland rainforest to the park at top.



Lake Morris from the Picnic Area

The lookout on the way up and the area around the cafe and picnic area can be very rewarding with [Barred Cuckoo-shrike](#), [MacLeay's Honeyeater](#), [Noisy Pitta](#), [Pied Monarch](#), [Grey Goshawk](#), [Wompoo](#), [Superb](#) and [Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove](#) and other rainforest species. In winter it is a good site for [White-eared Monarch](#).

A strenuous walking track leads to **Crystal Cascades** on Freshwater Creek, another popular picnic area with lowland rainforest species. Alternatively, you can get close to Crystal Cascades by car from the Cairns Western Arterial Road via Redlynch Intake Road and the Rocks Road to the Rocks Reserve.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Ivan Evans Walk

The **Ivan Evans Walk** at the end of Toogood Road, Bayview Heights, is good for rainforest species, including [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) from December to April.



Ivan Evans Walk Beside Clarkes Creek near Toogood Rd

Toogood Road is accessible from Mulgrave Road opposite Cannon Park Racecourse 6km southwest of Cairns. The Walk connects Toogood Road between Pinetree Close and Creek Close with Ellen Close, one block south of Toogood Road along Sydney Street. It is 1.2km in length and climbs steeply to a lookout 750m from Toogood Road.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Green Island

Green Island is probably the best known and most visited coral cay on the Reef. Over 180,000 visitors a year visit the island, with its resort hotel, shops, underwater observatory and other tourist attractions.

Most of the island is a national park. A track leads to the beach at the other end through a small rainforest of species, which have become established here from seeds brought by fruit-eating birds. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/green-island/index.html>].

[Emerald Dove](#) is common on the forest floor and, with patience, [Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves](#) are usually visible in the trees above. In the summer deep “coo hoos” announce the presence of [Torresian Imperial-Pigeons](#). Over 2500 have been counted commuting from their nests on the island to feed on the mainland.

There are usually a few waders and seabirds on the shore, including both grey and white morphs of the [Eastern Reef Egret](#), which breed on the island, feed on the reef flats at low tide and roost in casuarinas along the beach.

[Silvereye](#), [Emerald Dove](#) and an [Eastern Reef Egret](#) are extremely tame in the outdoor eating area of the resort. When approaching the jetty, watch out for a huge

stick nest on a beacon. [Ospreys](#) breed here from May to October.

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Michaelmas Cay National Park

No visit to Cairns is complete without a trip to **Michaelmas Cay**, a true coral cay located on a reef 40km northeast of Cairns. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/michaelmas-upolu-cays/index.html>].

This low, vegetated cay is home to thousands of ground-nesting seabirds and is one of the largest colonies on the Great Barrier Reef. At least 14 seabird species have been recorded on Michaelmas Cay, six of them breeding.

During the summer months, when nesting peaks, more than 30,000 birds have been observed on the cay. [Sooty Tern](#), [Common Noddy](#), [Crested](#) and [Lesser Crested Tern](#) are the main nesting species. Less common are [Roseate](#), [Black-naped](#), [Bridled](#) and [Little Tern](#). [Brown Boobies](#) usually there, occasionally [Masked Boobies](#).

Both [Lesser](#) and [Great Frigatebirds](#) are usually soaring overhead and, very rarely, a [Red-footed Booby White-tailed](#) or [Red-tailed Tropicbird](#).



Michaelmas Cay National Park

Because of the increasing numbers of people wishing to visit the reef and the sensitivity of nesting birds to disturbance, all visitors, even environmentally conscious birdwatchers, are restricted to a limited stretch of the beach on one side of the cay. This should be strictly adhered to. There is plenty of scope for observation and photography of all stages of the breeding birds in that area.

Several commercial operators run daily trips to Michaelmas Cay. The trip lasts about two hours and several hours are then spent at the Cay. Lunch, glass-bottom boat coral viewing and free use of snorkelling gear are usually included, but hire of

wetsuits and scuba gear are extra. A luxury sailing catamaran trip goes only to the cay and spends all day there. Cheaper trips spend less time at the cay then continue to the outer reef for a longer stay.

Trips, for individuals or group charters, can be booked through Boardwalk Travel: Pier Marketplace, Cairns, Qld 4870; 07 4031 4444, [boardwalk1@bigpond.com.au] and bird-watching trips are offered by Seastar Cruises: 07 4041 6218; [info@seastarcruises.com.au]; [<http://www.seastarcruises.com.au/activities/bird-watching>]

- Return to [Cairns Area: Map & Links](#)

Cairns to Mossman and Daintree

Cairns to Mossman and Daintree: Map & Links



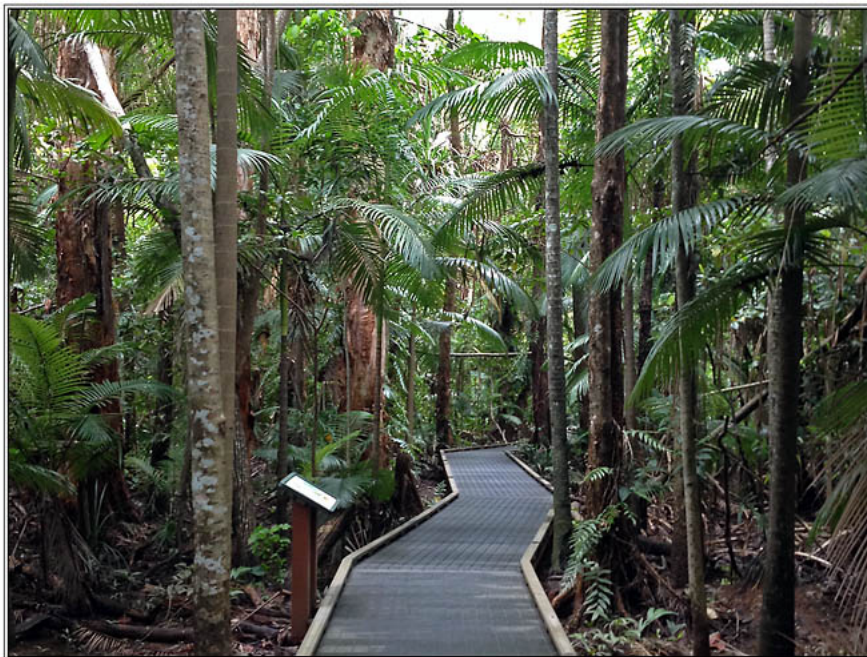
- Cattana Wetlands
- Yorkeys Knob
- Yule Point
- Port Douglas
- Low Isles
- Mossman Gorge
- Newell Beach
- Wonga Beach

- [Daintree River](#)
- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Cattana Wetlands

This new 80ha reserve, formerly degraded by farming and sand mining, has been rehabilitated, and the wetlands and lowland Feather Palm forest have been extensively re-vegetated. It now includes 30 hectares of regionally significant forest and several large freshwater and saltwater lakes.

There are picnic facilities, a bird hide and a 300m boardwalk through the Feather Palm forest. There are plans to add more bird hides on other lakes, walking tracks and an elevated boardwalk through the forested areas.



The Feather Palm Forest, Cattana Wetlands

On the lakes watch for [Black-necked Stork](#) and [Jacana](#), which breed here, and [Green Pygmy Goose](#), egrets, [cormorants](#) and other waterbirds. Agile Wallabies can be seen on the edge of the wetlands when they come out to graze in the cooler part of the day.



Cattana Wetlands

The entrance to the reserve is on Dunne Road, Smithfield, approximately 17km north of the CBD with access from the Captain Cook Highway via McGregor Road or via Yorkeys Knob Road. It is open daily from 5:30am-7pm. The Wetlands may be closed in very wet weather.

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Yorkeys Knob

At **Yorkeys Knob** there is a small paperbark-fringed lagoon that is part of the golf course and just past the entrance. [Green Pygmy-Goose](#), [Magpie Goose](#), ducks and other waterbird species may be present. [Darters](#) breed here.



Lagoon at Golf Course, Yorkey's Knob

To get there, turn west along Wattle Street just past the small shopping centre when approaching Yorkeys Knob along Yorkeys Knob Road/Varley Street (same road with change of name).

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Yule Point

Yule Point, between Oak Beach and Port Douglas, is a possible site for [Beach Stone-curlew](#) and waders.



Looking North from the Highway at Yule Point

There is no sign to indicate Yule Point: it is 8km south of the Port Douglas turn-off or 53km north of Cairns, 3km north of Oak Beach, at the transition from rocky coast to mudflats where, going north, the road turns inland to cross the Mowbray River.

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Port Douglas

From **Port Douglas**, boats run daily trips to the reef and to Low Isles. They leave from the marina on Wharf Street, accessible by turning west off Port Douglas Road before the shopping centre or by continuing through the shopping centre and turning west at the northern end of Macrossan Street.



Port Douglas Marina

The **Rainforest Habitat**, near the Port Douglas turnoff, is no substitute for the real thing but photographers have reported it useful for close-up photos of the birds, many of which are not rainforest species. Some overseas birders have found it useful for getting close to birds before seeing them in the field. The morning 'Breakfast with the Birds' has been recommended.

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Low Isles

Fifteen kilometres from the coast, the **Low Isles** are a pair of coral atolls (Low Island and Woody Island), with a swamp supporting various species of mangroves.

From September to March, 20,000 - 25,000 [Torresian Imperial-Pigeons](#) breed in these mangroves. It is a marvellous sight to watch the birds fly across in small and large groups, going to the mainland to feed each morning and returning in the late afternoon.

On higher parts of the mangroves, excreted seeds of rainforest fruit trees have germinated, but the trees do not grow to any great height. **Do not** go near the colony. It will disturb the birds and may kill many chicks.

At low tide it is possible to walk to the mangroves across the reef flat. Here you may find [Eastern Reef Egret](#) (mainly white phase), [Striated Heron](#) and waders, including [Ruddy Turnstone](#), [Eastern Curlew](#), [Wandering](#) and [Grey-tailed Tattler](#) and [Great Knot](#). [Beach Stone-curlew](#) and [Collared Kingfisher](#) may also be here. Watch for frigatebirds, [Brown Booby](#), [Black-naped](#), [Bridled](#) and [Roseate Tern](#), [White-bellied Sea-Eagle](#) and [Osprey](#).

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

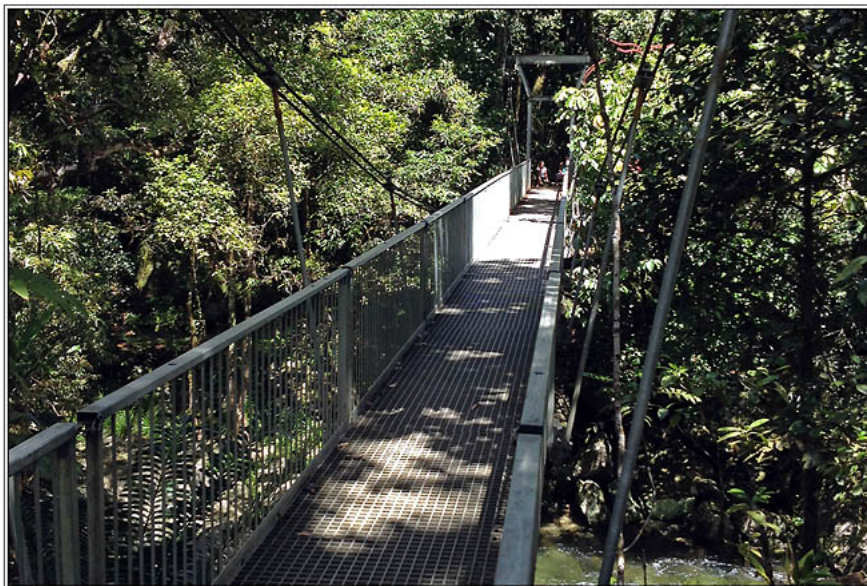
Mossman Gorge

At the southern end of the Daintree National Park [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/daintree/index.html>], the Mossman River flows through a steep-sided gorge in a series of waterfalls, rapids and clear pools. Most of the **Mossman Gorge** section of the park is rugged, undeveloped and covered with dense, tropical rainforest, accessible only to experienced bushwalkers. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/daintree-mossman-gorge/index.html>].



Mossman Gorge

The accessible part of the Gorge is now an indigenous eco-tourism development [<http://www.mossmangorge.com.au>], with a visitors' centre 2km from Mossman along Mossman Gorge Road. Wheelchair-friendly shuttle buses operate at 15-minute intervals along the remaining 2.5km to the Gorge. Pedestrians - but not private vehicles - are permitted along this road.



Suspension Bridge over Rex Creek

At the gorge itself there is an elevated boardwalk and track circuit to the swimming beach on the Mossman River. The suspension footbridge over Rex Creek leads to a 2.4km rainforest circuit track along this creek and Wurrmbu Creek.

The walking tracks allow access to the lowland rainforest, which is good for birds in the early morning or evening. Platypus and freshwater turtles may be seen in the calmer reaches of the river.

- Guiding and Tours: [Del Richard](#)
- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Newell Beach

[Red-rumped](#) and [Barn](#) Swallow have been recorded in the Mossman area in summer. Check the power lines around **Newell Beach**, particularly near the water tower and along the road past the golf course. Red-rumped Swallows may be here from November till March and Barn Swallows from mid-September till February.



The Water Tower - and Powerlines - at Newell Beach

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Wonga Beach

At the first turnoff to the beach, 17.5km north of Mossman, [Osprey](#) nests on a communication tower from March to July.

In the forest behind the beach is the huge 4m high mound of [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#). Go along the north end of the Esplanade to the parking area - the mound is 50m further on and about 75m in from the edge of the beach.



Scrubfowl Mound at Wonga Beach

[Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#) is seen here regularly and it's worth checking the beach for

[Beach Stone-curlew](#).

About 1km north of the Wonga Beach turnoff is a large tree that hosts a [Metallic Starling](#) colony between November and April. [Whistling Kites](#) nest in the same tree.

[Spotted Whistling-Ducks](#) were present in the ponds near the northern end of Snapper Island Drive in 2011, and a pair of [Radjah Shelduck](#) at the end of Snapper Island Drive in 2014.

- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Daintree River

A boat cruise on the **Daintree River** is an excellent way of seeing some of the rarer species close-up. These may include [Spotted Whistling-Duck](#), a [Great-billed Heron](#), [Papuan Frogmouth](#), [Azure](#) and [Little Kingfisher](#), [Black-necked Stork](#) and, in summer, [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#), [Channel-billed Cuckoo](#), [Shining Flycatcher](#), [Large-billed Gerygone](#), [Torresian Imperial-Pigeon](#) and [Black Bittern](#).



Early Morning on the Daintree River

You may also see crocodiles sunning themselves on the banks of the river, especially after a cold night.

- See the Section on [Daintree River Cruises](#) in Guiding and Tours.



Estuarine or Saltwater Crocodile (Crocodylus porosus)

Daintree River, Northeastern Queensland, 20 August 2011 120340 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Estuarine Crocodile](#)]

Several companies (see below) operate early morning boat cruises on the river of an hour or more, from Daintree Village, 35km north of Mossman.

For those wishing to travel north to Cape Tribulation and beyond, a vehicular ferry operates continuously, from 6am until midnight, across the Daintree River. The turnoff to the ferry along Cape Tribulation Road is 26km north of Mossman, 9km south of Daintree Village.

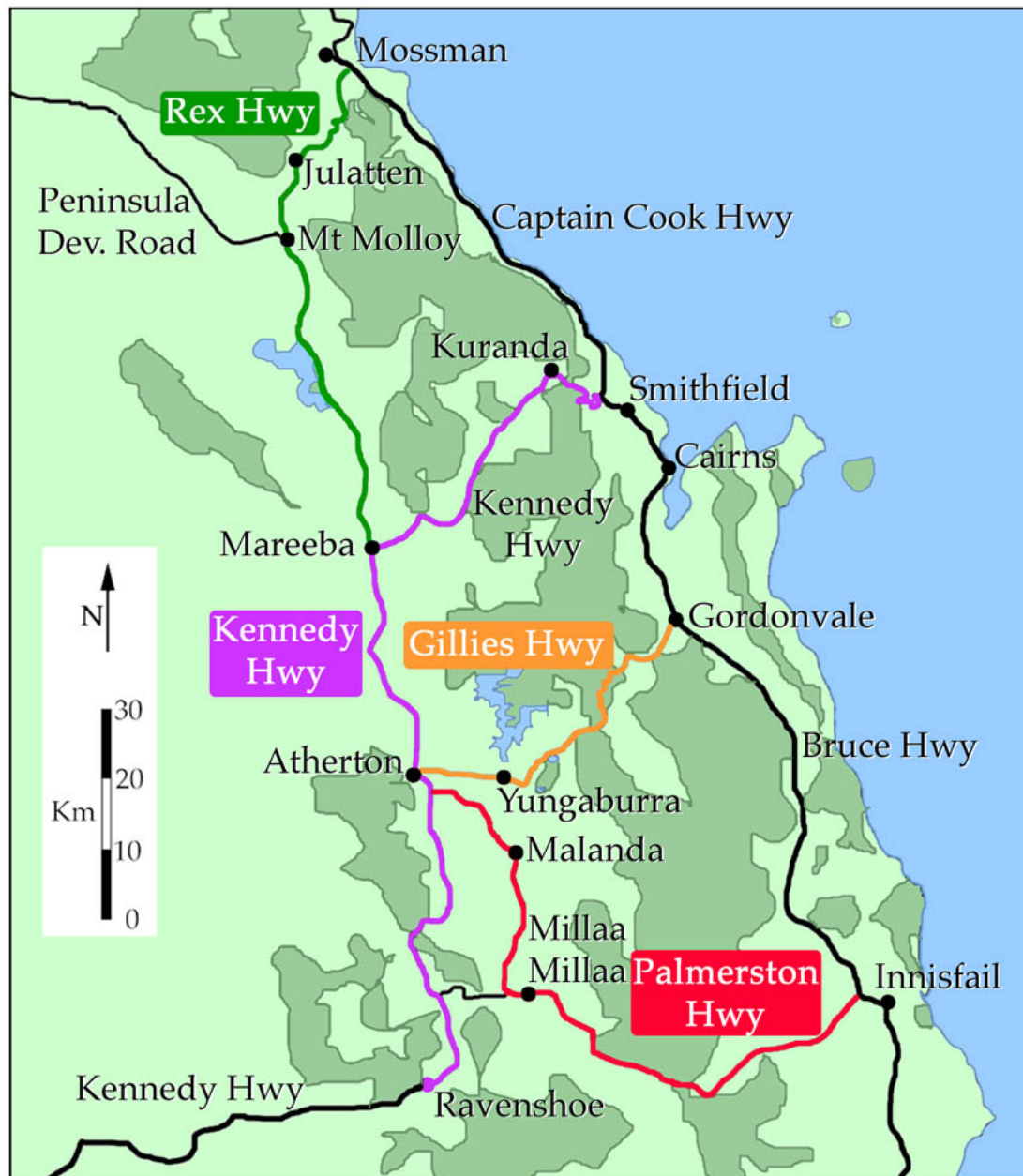
- [Accommodation Catering for Birders](#): Red Mill House.
- [Guiding and Tours](#): Daintree River Wildwatch, Mangrove Adventures, Daintree Boatman Nature Tours.
- Return to [Cairns-Mossman-Daintree Map & Links](#)

Information about the Atherton Tableland

Routes to the Atherton Tableland

There are four highways to the Tableland from the coastal highway. From south to north, they are the:

- Palmerston Highway from Innisfail to Millaa Millaa and on to Malanda and Atherton
- Gillies Highway from Gordonvale south of Cairns to Yungaburra and Atherton
- Kennedy Highway from Smithfield north of Cairns via Kuranda and Mareeba to Atherton and Ravenshoe and beyond
- Rex Highway from Mossman to Mount Molloy and on to Mareeba.



Highways to the Atherton Tableland

All are scenic routes climbing up the escarpment to the Tableland through rainforest, with the Gillies and the Kennedy being the most convenient to Cairns but having the most bends. The Palmerston Highway from Innisfail is convenient if coming from the south (e.g. Townsville or Mission Beach), while the Rex Highway is accessible from Cairns via the coastal Cook Highway through Port Douglas and from the Daintree through Mossman.

There are places of interest to birders along all the four routes, so a separate chapter is devoted to each. A rewarding round trip from the coast may be planned by travelling up by one route and back by another.

If time is short and the [Wet Tropics endemics](#) are of particular interest, then the Gillies Highway via Lakes Barrine and Eacham and the Rex Highway via Julatten to

visit Mount Lewis would be a good choice.

- [Chapter Twelve - Innisfail to Atherton](#)
- [Chapter Thirteen - Gordonvale to Atherton](#)
- [Chapter Fourteen - Cairns to Atherton Tableland via Kennedy Highway](#)
- [Chapter Fifteen - Mareeba to Mossman](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

About the Atherton Tableland

About 50km southwest of Cairns, the Atherton Tableland is an area of mainly rich volcanic soil that was originally covered with large areas of tall tropical rainforest. Since the 1890s most of this has been cleared for agriculture and, until recently, logging was still taking place. Most of the remaining patches of forest are now protected as part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

These are relics of the ancient forests of Gondwanaland, a southern supercontinent that existed 100 million years ago. In a few hectares it is possible to find over 150 species of tree - more than the entire tree flora of Europe or North America. Several tree-planting schemes are now encouraging the re-vegetation of public and private land with appropriate local plant species.



Dairy Farms & Rainforest Between Millaa Millaa & Ravenshoe

Among the patchwork of dairy, maize, sugar cane and peanut farms and small towns, some remnants of the original forests exist. These are usually associated with rugged landforms too difficult to clear - volcanic peaks and craters, sharp ridges, gorges with rushing streams and waterfalls, mostly now contained in national parks or in state forests. The rivers, lakes, dams and swamps on the Tableland are also rich with waterbirds.

The Tableland is an incredibly rewarding region for birdwatchers. In all areas of rainforest, even the smallest remnant patches, is a wide variety of species. For this reason, only the more unusual or hard to find species have been commented on in the locality descriptions.

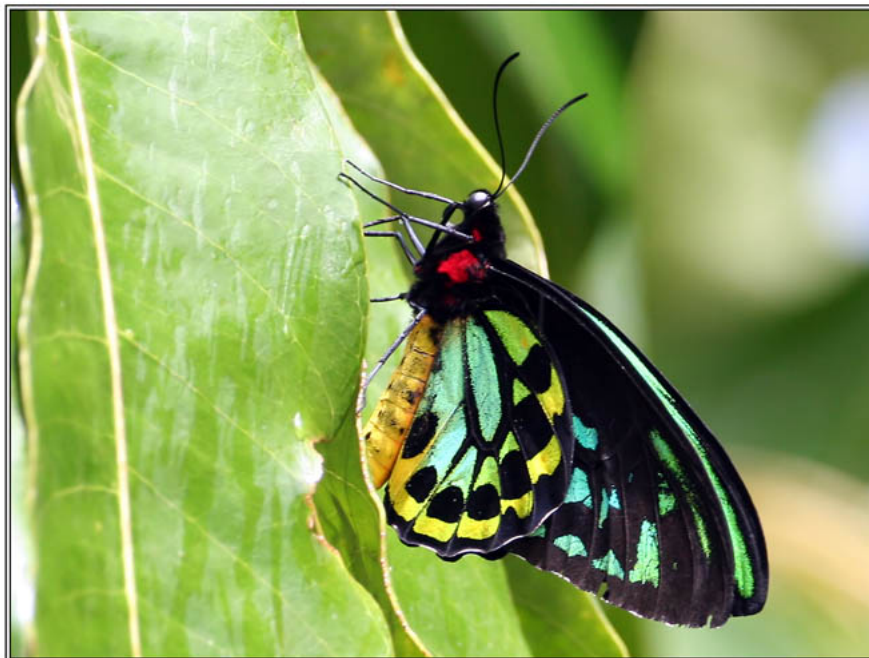
To those accustomed to open woodland, birding in dense rainforest is frustrating. Many birds are heard but difficult to see in the dense high canopy, or their cryptic colouring blends in with the forest. Audio recordings of rainforest birds help with identification.

Fruiting native figs, laurels, myrtles, palms and other trees are rewarding sites, as they attract large numbers of parrots, catbirds, riflebirds, pigeons and other fruit-eating birds.

Driving through the farmland between the rainforest areas, especially on the narrow secondary roads, watch the grassy edges for [quail](#), [Buff-banded Rail](#) and [Bush-hen](#).

Raptors are abundant, with [Whistling](#), [Black](#) and [Black-shouldered](#) Kite and [Nankeen Kestrel](#) the most common species. [Australian Hobby](#) can be expected over open pastures in the dry season. [Sarus Cranes](#) and [Brolgas](#) feed on open paddocks around Atherton, Yungaburra, Malanda and Mareeba especially after the corn has been harvested, from June to December.

Butterflies are abundant in the tropics. Most spectacular of all are the brilliant Ulysses Blue and the Cairns Birdwing. For a reference on their identification see [Butterflies](#) in the chapter on References, Addresses and Websites.



Male Cairns Birdwing (Ornithoptera priamus)

Lake Eacham, Atherton Tableland, NE Queensland, 9 March 2006

31395 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

While 60 per cent of the rain falls from November to March, the Tableland can be wet at any time of year, and is one of the wettest regions in Australia.

Leeches inhabit the damp leaf litter and vegetation, and move actively with a looping motion. Generally they are little more than a nuisance, unless attached to delicate

tissues such as eyes. Avoid sitting on damp logs or standing too long in any one place, a definite hazard when birdwatching. Apply repellent over shoes and socks. Leeches will detach when full of blood or sprinkled with alcohol or salt. Check too for ticks and scrub-itch.

Beware also of stinging trees. These are generally a problem along rainforest tracks and clearings where seedlings grow in response to extra light. Watch for a small to medium-sized shrub with attractive purple fruit or flowers and large, heart-shaped leaves with serrated edges. Merely brushing against them will cause intense pain that may persist for days and recur on exposure to cold or wet for up to two months. The recommended way of removing the stings from skin is by using hair-remover wax strips.



Stinging Tree (Dendrocnidna moroides)

Curtain Tree Fig Road, Atherton Tableland, 4 December 2013 156555 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

At an altitude of over 750m, the higher southern parts of the Tableland are considerably cooler than Cairns, especially during winter. Go prepared with warm and waterproof clothing. Toward the end of the dry season, temperatures can be very high. Protection from the sun is advisable at all times.

While it is possible to visit the Tableland on day trips, it is better to stay for longer. There are plenty of hotels, motels, hostels, caravan parks, bed & breakfasts, farm-stays, camping areas and several establishments catering mainly for naturalists.

- **Return to [Key Map & Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Atherton

Atherton, in the centre of the Tableland, is a large town with hotels, motels, backpackers' hostel, caravan parks and a shopping centre that is useful for stocking up if you are camping. The DERM office, behind the police station, has information booklets and leaflets on the forest parks.

Check for fruit-doves such as [Superb Fruit-Dove](#) in the fig trees in Vernon Street,

between Main Street and the Bowls Club. [Scarlet Honeyeater](#) is often seen in other street trees when flowering.

The Information Centre at the roundabout at the junction of Kennedy Highway and Main Street has displays, bird lists, and birding information for the Atherton shire and beyond, as well as books, cards and gifts.

A Bird of Prey flight show operates most days at Atherton Chinatown beside Platypus Park, on the Herberton road. Keep an eye out in winter for [Australian Bustard](#) in grasslands in the Atherton district.

- [Accommodation Catering for Birders](#): Pteropus House, Woodlands Tourist Park.

Innisfail to Atherton

Innisfail to Atherton: Map & Links



- [Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway](#)
- [Palmerston Section, Wooroonooran National Park](#)
- [Misty Mountains Wilderness Walks](#)
- [Millaa Millaa](#)
- [Malanda](#)
- [Malanda Falls Conservation Park](#)
- [Bromfield Swamp](#)
- [Curtain Fig National Park](#)
- [Hasties Swamp](#) in the chapter on Cairns to Atherton Tableland via the Kennedy Highway.
- [Hallorans Hill Conservation Park](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway

On a fine day this new 350m walkway and the 37m tower provide stunning views of the North Johnstone River valley. Unfortunately it does not open until 9:30am but as it is cool at that altitude the birds are still active [<http://mamutropicalskywalk.com.au>].



Mamu Canopy Walkway

As the walkway projects off the side of the valley, both it and the 1km long bush track are accessible to wheelchairs. The provided Flora and Fauna Guide identifies about 40 rainforest plants and trees with the help of numbered signs along the track and walkway.

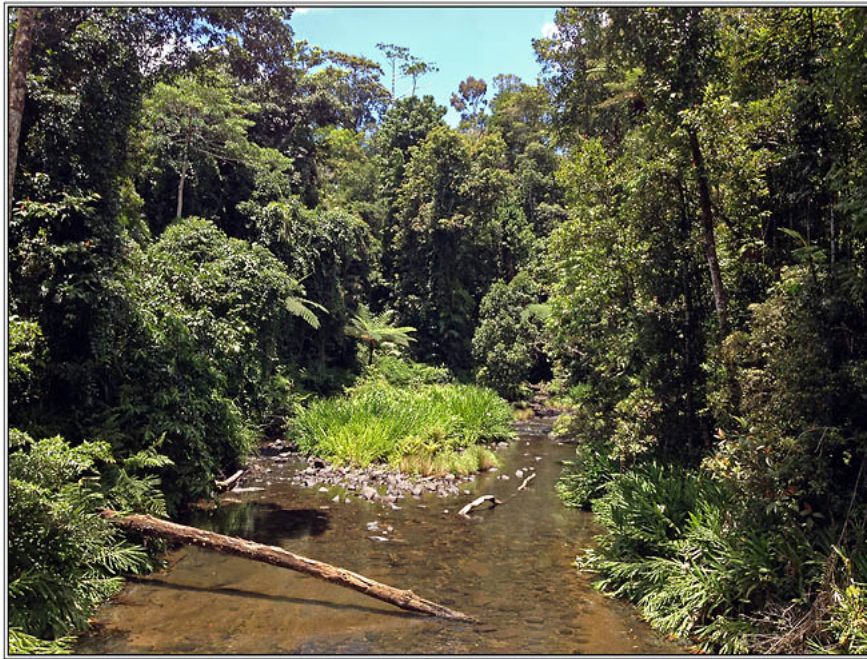
- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Palmerston Section, Wooroonooran National Park

From Millaa Millaa, the Palmerston Highway begins to wind its way down to Innisfail and after about 15km enters the Palmerston section of Wooroonooran National Park. This national park protects a large area of upland rainforest, with some spectacular creeks, waterfalls and gorges, and includes the upper reaches of the Johnstone River. Twelve kilometres of walking tracks provide access to undisturbed rainforest and stunning scenery. It is in one of the highest rainfall areas and leeches are prevalent after rain. The park has a very impressive bird list and many mammals.

Henrietta Creek is one of the few places on the Tableland where it is possible to camp right in the middle of the rainforest. This can be rather wet, but it is an unforgettable experience to hear [Lesser Sooty Owls](#) and [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#) at night and wake to the calls of [Chowchillas](#), [Brown Cuckoo-Doves](#), [Black Butcherbirds](#) and the wonderful dawn chorus. Watch for [Double-eyed Fig-Parrots](#), which often roost here. A shelter shed (very useful if it is raining!), toilets and

fireplaces are provided, and good, clean water is available from the creek, where signposted. A track leads along the creek to a Platypus-viewing platform where, at dusk and in early morning, the patient observer can see them. Musky Rat-kangaroo is often here during the day, especially in overcast weather.



Henrietta Creek

At night, try spotlighting along the walking track and around the campground for possums, White-tailed Rat, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Antechinus (a marsupial mouse) and Fawn-footed Melomys, (a native rodent). The melomys will eat any food that is left out and will find their way into your car to get at it!



Fawn-footed Melomys (Melomys cervinipes)

Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 31 March 2010

99344 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Fawn-footed-Melomys](#)]

Six kilometres back up the highway is a turnoff on the right to a section of the 'old highway'. Three species of ringtail possum may be found here.

See [Queensland National Parks](#) for campsite bookings.

A brochure with map of all the walking tracks is available from Parks Queensland offices and at [\[http://npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-palmerston/index.html\]](http://npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-palmerston/index.html).

- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Misty Mountains Wilderness Walks

The Misty Mountains Wilderness Walks comprise a network of short and long distance walking tracks and roads in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Set in fairly remote rainforest by the river, the **Sth Johnstone Campsite** has plenty of birds and is accessible by car. The 12.6km access road (unsuitable for caravans and 4WD recommended) leaves the Palmerston Highway 53km from Innisfail, 24km from Millaa Millaa. Only accessible in the dry season. Advance bookings for camping permits are essential: see section on [Queensland National Parks](#). The Walks extend as far as [Tully Gorge](#): see that section.

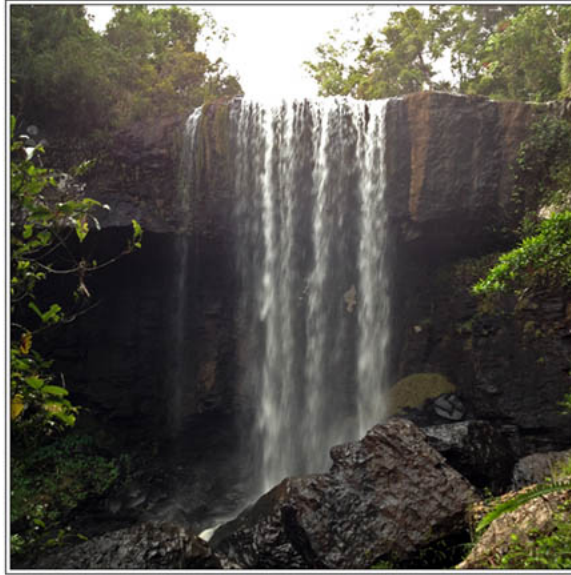
- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Millaa Millaa



Millaa Millaa Falls

Millaa Millaa is a small town, surrounded by dairy farms. It has a very high rainfall, ensuring that the three waterfalls nearby are usually running. Millaa Millaa Falls, Zillie Falls and Elinjaa Falls are on a 15km circuit road that leaves the Palmerston Highway, 2km east of the town. All have short tracks into the rainforest, but the noise of running water makes bird calls hard to detect. Of the three, Millaa Millaa Falls is the most rewarding for birds with a good chance of [Yellow-throated Scrubwren](#), [Grey-headed Robin](#) and [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#).



Zillie Falls

Zillie Falls can be good too. However, in December 2013, although the track to the top of the falls was fine, the steep continuation to the bottom of the falls was muddy and obstructed by fallen trees.

- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Malanda



Malanda Hotel

Malanda is another pleasant, small town with an impressive, large, old wooden hotel, motels, and caravan parks. It is the centre of the dairying industry of the Tableland. It boasts the longest milk run in the world, with Malanda milk being delivered as far afield as Darwin. At Malanda Falls, as in many Tableland streams, Platypus may be seen in the early morning or in the evening.



Platypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus)

Tarzali, Northeastern Queensland, 18 July 2006

37092 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Platypus](#)]

If staying at Malanda Caravan Park near the falls, ask for a site near the rainforest and enjoy the dawn chorus.

- [Accommodation Catering for Birders: Rose Gums.](#)
- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Malanda Falls Conservation Park



Queensland Walnut Tree

Across the road from the visitor centre, a short circuit track takes you through dense rainforest that gives a good idea of what the original forest was like. Near the start of the track is a huge, buttressed Queensland Walnut tree. Its large fruits, 5cm in diameter, are easily recognisable on the forest floor. [Brush-Turkeys](#) and [Scrubfowl](#) are plentiful.



Saw-shelled Turtle (Wollumbinia latisternum)

Malanda, Northeastern Queensland, 5 December 2013

156653 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Part of the track runs along the Johnstone River where Saw-shelled Turtle is common.

More photos at [[Birdway: Saw-shelled Turtle](#)]

- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Bromfield Swamp



Bromfield Swamp from Viewing Platform

About 2km from Malanda, on the road to Atherton, turn west at Upper Barron Road. This secondary road, 9km of which is unsealed, connects with the Kennedy Highway a short distance from The Crater National Park.

About 6km from Malanda, the road skirts the northern rim of Bromfield Swamp, a huge, extinct, volcanic crater filled with grassland, pools and swamps.

From June to December, Bromfield Swamp is a favourite roosting ground for hundreds of [Brolgas](#) and [Sarus Cranes](#). This is on private property and there is no access. Best views are with a telescope from the viewing platform near the parking area.

- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Curtain Fig National Park

Located 2km from Yungaburra on the road connecting Yungaburra to the Malanda-Atherton road, this park features an enormous strangler fig tree, with a spectacular curtain of aerial roots dropping 15m to the ground.



Curtain Fig Tree

Many tour coaches visit this tree, so an early morning or late afternoon visit is best. Despite its popularity, a large number of species, including [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#), can be seen from the boardwalk around the tree and across the road.

If you are staying in Yungaburra, it is also handy for spotlighting at night. Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo, various rainforest possums and [Rufous Owl](#) have been seen here.



Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo (Dendrolagus lumholtzi)

Malanda, Northeastern Queensland, 8 February 2012

129664 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo](#)].

- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Hallorans Hill Conservation Park

Rising above Atherton, this park contains open eucalypt woodland, with patches of rainforest in sheltered sites. It is a pleasant place for a picnic and the graded walking track winds up the slopes of this extinct volcanic crater.



Atherton Tableland from Halloran's Hill

It is possible to drive to the lookout at the top. Take the Kennedy Highway - Roberts Street - out of Atherton towards Ravenshoe, turn left at Hallorans Leisure Park on the corner of Roberts Street and Twelfth Avenue. Follow the signs to the lookout, which gives spectacular views of the Tableland.

A short walk takes you down into the rainforest-filled crater. Red-legged Pademelon is often here in the late afternoon, as well as a variety of rainforest birds.

- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Gordonvale to Atherton

Gordonvale to Atherton: Map & Links



- The Gillies Highway
- Goldsborough Valley
- Crater Lakes National Park
- Lake Barrine
- Lake Eacham
- Yungaburra
- Lake Tinaroo
- Tinaburra Peninsula
- Pelican Point
- Tinaroo
- Danbulla National Park and State Forest
- Lake Euramoo
- Mobo Creek Crater
- The Cathedral Fig Tree

- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

The Gillies Highway

The Gillies Highway leaves the Bruce Highway 24km south of Cairns, near Gordonvale, and winds its way up to the Tableland. When first built in 1926, it was a narrow one-way highway, controlled by a Top Gatekeeper and a Bottom Gatekeeper, who kept to a strict timetable and allowed one hour for the journey.

Goldsborough Valley

This section of Wooroonooran National Park, located on the western side of the Bellenden Ker Range and on the banks of the Mulgrave River, is a good birding spot and a nice place to camp reasonably close to Cairns.

A weekday visit during school term is recommended, as it is a popular venue for canoeists and can be crowded at weekends and in school holidays. See [http://education.qld.gov.au/public_media/calendar/holidays.html].

Camping permits must be booked in advance either [over the counter](#), [online](#) or [by phone](#). Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-goldsborough-valley/index.html>].



Camping Area at Goldsborough Valley

In the surrounding forest are lowland species such as [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) (in summer), [Graceful](#) and [Yellow-spotted Honeyeater](#), [Yellow Oriole](#) and [Shining Flycatcher](#). [Azure Kingfisher](#), [Darter](#), and [cormorants](#) are found along the river. In the evening, [Bush Stone-Curlews](#) are in the open areas and at night, particular in moonlight, [Large-tailed Nightjars](#) can be heard.



Mulgrave River at Goldsborough Valley Camping Area

Mountain bikes are the only vehicles now permitted on the Goldfields Track which starts at the far end of the camping area. This steep 18km track traverses the Bellenden Ker Range to the Boulders near Babinda and 7-10 hours should be allowed to walk it one way.

An easier option is the 1.7km return Wajil walk through rainforest to Kearneys Falls. It starts on the left near the end of the main camping area.

Access to the park, from the Bruce Highway near Gordonvale, is via the Gillies Highway, then the Goldsborough Valley Forestry Road for another 17km. The final 7km stretch is unsealed.

On the road in, which runs through the cane fields, watch for [Pheasant Coucal](#), [White-rumped Swiftlet](#), [Tree Martin](#), [White-breasted Woodswallos](#) and [Forest Kingfisher](#).

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Crater Lakes National Park

These two small national park sections contain rich tropical rainforest, surrounding clear freshwater lakes formed in volcanic craters. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/crater-lakes/index.html>].

Over 100 species of bird have been recorded in this park. If possible, it is best to come here in the early morning before the large tourist coaches arrive, although [Wompoo Fruit-Doves](#) have been seen feeding in a tree directly above the row of parked buses.



Musky Rat-kangaroo (Hypsiprymnodon moschatus)

Kuranda, Northeastern Queensland, 12 September 2008

80375 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The small, dark Musky Rat-kangaroo, one of the few species of marsupial active during the daytime, is frequently seen from the walking tracks around both these lakes.

More photos at [\[Birdway: Musky Rat-Kangaroo\]](#)

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine

This is the larger of the two lakes, and a 5km circuit track starts at the car park. If you don't have time to complete the circuit, go as far as the two giant Kauri pines, each with a circumference of over six metres. Link to QPRS website: [\[http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/lake-barrine/index.html\]](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/lake-barrine/index.html).



Kauri Pines at Lake Barrine

The rainforest is rich with birdlife and the lake itself supports a variety of waterbirds. The boat cruise at 10.15am is good value and Saw-shelled Turtle, Amethystine Python and Water Dragon are usually seen, as well as [Brush-turkey](#), [Great Crested Grebe](#), [Dusky Moorhen](#) and various species of duck.



Amethystine Python (Morelia amethystina)

Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 25 January 2008

61807 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Amethystine Python](#)]

The park has tearooms, picnic facilities and toilets but camping is not allowed.



Water Dragon (Intellagama lesueurii)

Malanda, Atherton Tableland, 18 February 2013

129593 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Water Dragon](#)]

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Lake Eacham

This lake - similar in most respects to **Lake Barrine** but smaller, with a 3km circuit track around the lake - is also best visited early in the morning. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/lake-eacham/index.html>].

Most of the common rainforest species, including [White-throated Treecreeper](#), [Grey-headed Robin](#), [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#) and [Victoria's Riflebird](#) are in the picnic area.



Lake Eacham

At the start of the circuit track, a path to the ranger station leads off to the left. This can be a good spot for [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#).

Turn right to continue the circuit track, or left to return to the car park. Another short track starts near the Wrights Creek bridge sign, 750m away on the old Lake Barrine Road. This rough track leads down to and along the creek, under the bridge, and eventually rejoins the road.

Lake Eacham National Park has picnic tables, shelter sheds and toilets, but no camping is allowed. The Lake Eacham Caravan Park is 1.4km away on the road to Malanda. Ten kilometres past Lake Eacham, **Rose Gums** has self-contained, secluded cabins set in rainforest and woodland: see section on [Accommodation Catering for Birders](#).

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Yungaburra

Yungaburra, an attractive small town, is 4km from Lake Eacham. The old buildings in the town centre have been listed by the National Trust of Queensland and a leaflet on their history is available. The unique Lake Eacham Hotel, built in 1910, has comfortable accommodation: 07 4095 3515. Even if you are not staying there, it is worth a visit to admire the turn of the century architecture of this large wooden building.



Lake Eacham Hotel, Yungaburra

Visit the Platypus-viewing platform on Peterson Creek near the hotel in the early morning. Excellent markets, selling locally grown tea, coffee and other produce, are held here on the fourth Saturday of every month. There are several high quality, small restaurants in the town.

Check the fig trees, in the grounds of the Yungaburra State School, for pigeons and [fig-parrot](#). On the road to Tinaburra, the Camphor-Laurel trees, when fruiting in April and May, attract [White-headed Pigeons](#).

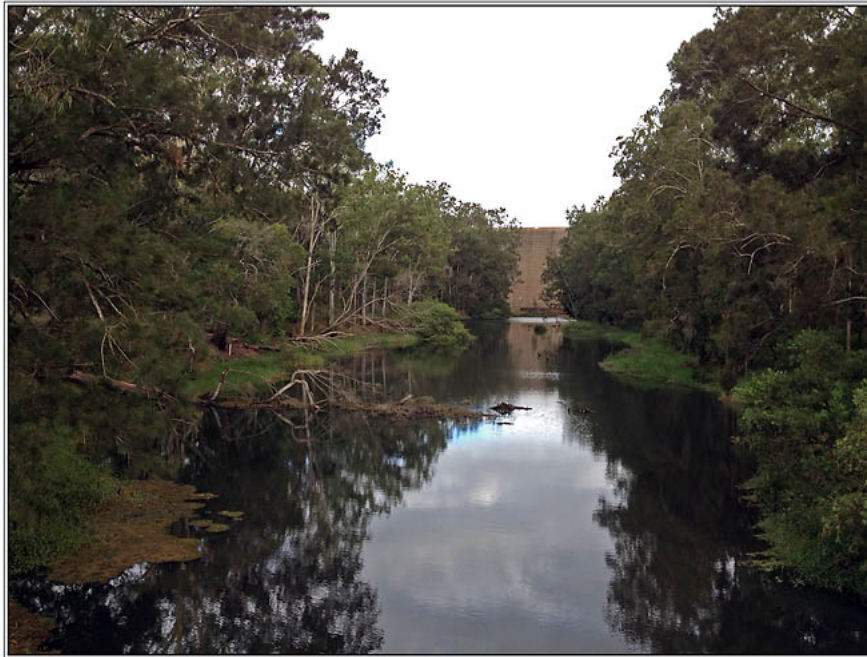
- [Guiding and Tours](#): Alan Gillanders.
- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Lake Tinaroo



Tinaroo Dam and Danbulla State Forest

This enormous, man-made lake was completed in 1958 with the construction of the Tinaroo Dam. It is used for hydroelectric power and the irrigation of farms on the drier, western side of the Tableland, but swimming, boating and fishing are allowed, and it is a popular area for recreation and water sports. Because of this it is not recommended for a visit during public holidays, when speedboats and waterskiers shatter the normal peace and quiet from dawn till dark.



Barron River Below Tinaroo Dam Wall

At other times it may have large numbers of waterbirds including such species as [Black Swan](#), [Hardhead](#), [Great Crested Grebe](#), [Eurasian Coot](#) and [Great Cormorant](#). There is the chance of unusual waders: [Little Ringed Plover](#) and [Australian Painted Snipe](#) have been recorded here, and there is an unconfirmed sighting of Swinhoe's Snipe.

From Yungaburra, the route to the Tinaroo Dam along the Gillies Highway, Marks Lane and Tinaroo Falls Dam Road goes through farm lands and the small village of Kairi.

From May to November the area along Marks Lane and Tinaroo Falls Dam Road between the Kennedy Highway and Kairi is good for cranes and sometimes [Bustard](#).

When the paddocks are bare, they may support [pratincoles](#) and other dry-land waders. In the wet season snipe inhabit the ankle-length wet grass. At night, [Barn Owls](#) perch on fence posts along Marks Lane.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Tinaburra Peninsula



Lake Tinaroo from Tinaburra Peninsula

Tinaburra Peninsula, 2km from Yungaburra, juts out into Lake Tinaroo. The shallow inlet on the left is a good spot for waterbird species, especially [Australian Wood Duck](#), [Plumed Whistling-Duck](#), and [Green](#) and [Cotton](#) Pygmy-Goose. Watch also for finches, [Tawny Grassbird](#) and [Golden-headed Cisticola](#) in the tall grass at the edge of the water.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Pelican Point



Lake Tinaroo from Pelican Point

Pelican Point on the shores of Lake Tinaroo has waterbirds, rails and many bush birds in the re-vegetated woodland areas. Access is via Malcolm Road, between

Kairi and Tinaroo.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Tinaroo



Tinaroo Dam from Picnic Area

Tinaroo has a caravan park and is surrounded by open forest with a range of bush birds. The picnic area near the Tinaroo Falls Dam wall may have [White-throated](#), [Scarlet](#) and [Yellow](#) Honeyeater. Watch for flowering eucalypts which attract honeyeaters. Black Gully Road near the Environmental Education Centre may have numerous honeyeaters and vagrants from the west often turn up here.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Danbulla National Park and State Forest

On the northern side of Lake Tinaroo, this national park and state forest includes rainforest, eucalypt woodland and pine plantations. The 31km **Danbulla Forest Drive** starts at the Tinaroo Dam wall and ends at the Gillies Highway near Lake Barrine. Along the Drive are five state forest parks on the foreshores of Lake Tinaroo, as well as other points of interest. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/danbulla/index.html>].



Kauri Creek from Camping Area

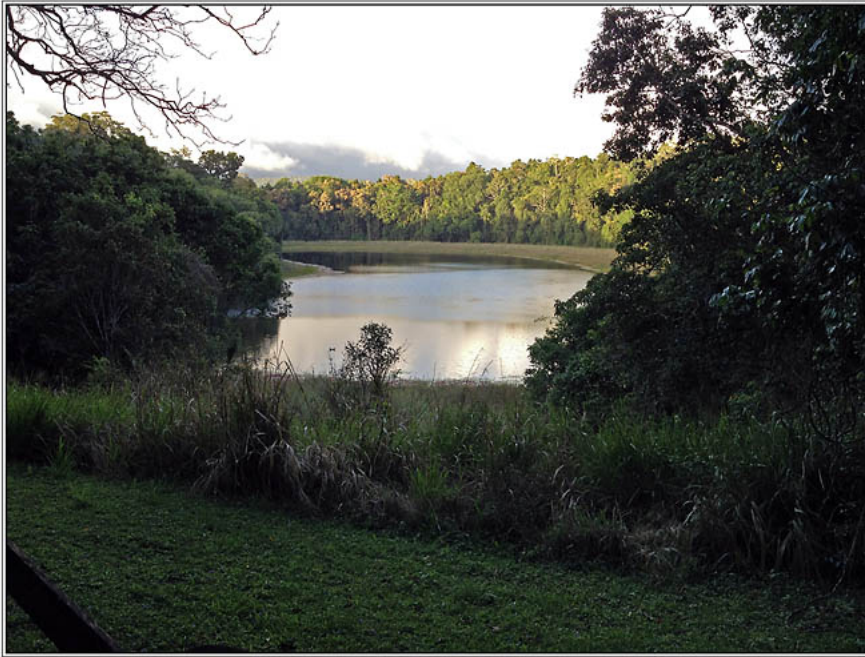
Basic camping facilities are provided at **Platypus, Downfall Creek, Kauri Creek, School Point and Fong-On Bay State Forest Parks**. These are pleasant, grassy camping areas on the edge of the lake, ideal for a picnic or overnight stay. They are also good for launching a boat or canoe and exploring the many peaceful inlets of the dam.

As mentioned before, avoid these camping areas during public holidays. Bookings for campsites: see section on [Queensland National Parks](#).

The Kauri Creek Walking Track, 300m north of Kauri Creek State Forest Park, is 4.5km long and leads through rainforest logged in the early 1950s.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Lake Euramoo

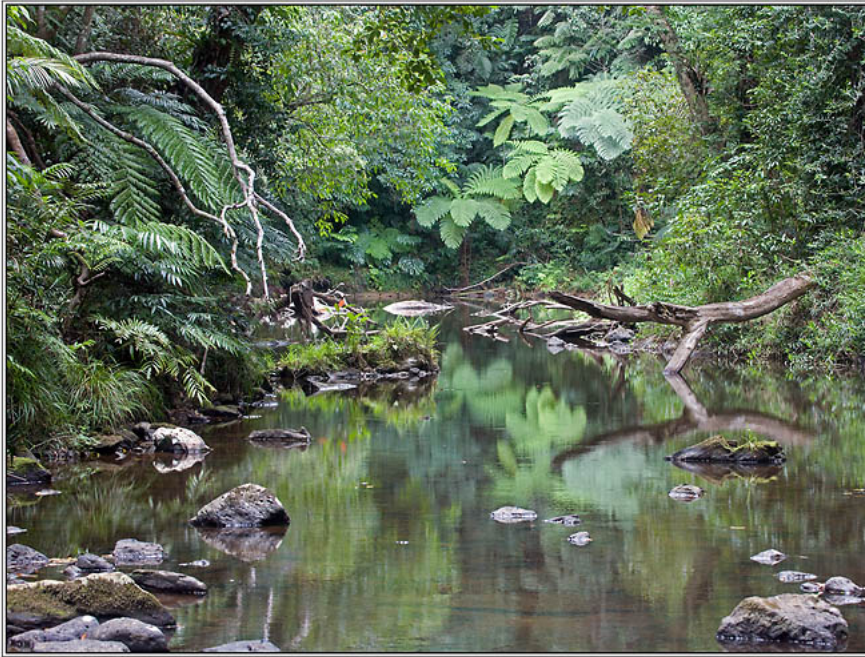


Lake Euramoo

Lake Euramoo is another crater lake, surrounded by lush rainforest. A short, self-guiding walk has been constructed through the rainforest to the edge of the lake. There are picnic facilities, but no camping is allowed.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Mobo Creek Crater



Mobo Creek

Mobo Creek Crater is small crater a few kilometres from Lake Euramoo through which Mobo Creek flows. A 600m walking track through rainforest passes the lake and crosses the creek twice. Watch out for Platypus and rainforest species such as [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#).

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

The Cathedral Fig Tree



Cathedral Fig Tree

The Cathedral Fig Tree is near the end of the forest drive, 5km from the Gillies Highway. Though not as spectacular as the Curtain Fig near Yungaburra, it is well worth a visit, and has an excellent dawn chorus.

- [Return to Gordonvale-Atherton Map & Links](#)

Cairns to the Atherton Tableland via the Kennedy Highway

Kennedy Highway: Map & Links



- [Kuranda](#)
- [Davies Creek National Park](#)
- [Mareeba](#)
- [Granite Gorge](#)
- [Nardellos Lagoon](#)
- [Rocky Creek](#)
- [Hasties Swamp](#)
- [Wongabel State Forest](#)
- [Mt Hypipamee National Park \(The Crater\)](#)

- [Herberton Range National Park \(Longlands Gap\)](#)
- [Kaban Area](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Kuranda

North of Cairns, at Smithfield Shopping Centre, the Kennedy Highway turns west off the Captain Cook Highway and climbs steeply to Kuranda, which can also be reached by the scenic railway or by Skyrail: see section on [Information about Cairns](#) for details.



Looking Towards Cairns from the Kennedy Highway

Kuranda is a busy tourist village with various attractions, including the Wildlife Noctarium, Honey House, Butterfly Farm and the railway station with its famous garden.

Accommodation in Kuranda is available in the Hotel, motels and backpacker hostels and the well-known Cassowary House, see [Accommodation Catering for Birders](#).

- [Guiding and Tours](#): Cassowary Tours.

Black Mountain Road is on the Cairns side of Kuranda and worth exploring for rainforest birds. Along the road there is an interesting, abrupt change in vegetation, from rainforest to open sclerophyll woodland. Watch for [Cassowary](#), [Superb Fruit-Dove](#), [Little Lorikeet](#) and, in summer, [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) and [Cicadabird](#).



Black Mountain Road, Kuranda

Not far out of Kuranda on the Kennedy Highway, the rainforest gives way to wet sclerophyll, and then to drier eucalypt woodland with a corresponding change in birdlife. [Red Goshawk](#) has been recorded here.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Davies Creek National Park

About halfway between Kuranda and Mareeba, this park has a variety of habitats, range of altitudes and ease of access. The creek at the first picnic and camping area, 6.5km from the highway, is a good place to cool off. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/davies-dinden-bare-hill/index.html>].

When the eucalypts are flowering there will be a wide range of honeyeaters - [Scarlet](#), [Yellow-faced](#), [Yellow](#), [White-throated](#) and the rare chance of [Banded](#) Honeyeater. [Painted Button-quail](#), [Pale-headed Rosella](#), [Mistletoebird](#), [Black-faced](#) and [White-bellied](#) Cuckoo-shrike and [Grey Shrike-thrush](#) may also be found in this drier country. [Buff-breasted Button-quail](#) has been seen here too.



Davies Creek National Park

The road continues for 8km up through wet sclerophyll vegetation with [Eastern Yellow Robin](#), [White-cheeked](#) and [White-naped](#) Honeyeater and eventually reaches a rainforest where it is possible to see all the Wet Tropics endemics. Camping sites must be [pre-booked](#).



Davies Creek Falls

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Mareeba

Mareeba, on the drier, northern side of the Tableland, is the commercial centre of a prosperous farming district. Sugar cane, peanut, fruit and small crop farms are irrigated by water from the Tinaroo Dam. There are hotels, motels and caravan parks and a good shopping centre. **Bicentennial Lakes Park** has wetlands and gardens that provide some birding opportunities.



Mareeba: Bicentennial Lakes

A short walk along the **Barron River** through a re-vegetated section starts beside the hospital. It is adjacent to a botanical gardens project in Bethel Park. Up to 50 species may be recorded in these areas in the early morning.



Mareeba: Revegetated Section Along the Barron River

You may find [Australian Bustard](#) and [Red-backed Kingfisher](#) (both in winter) and [Eastern Grass Owl](#) and [Rufous-throated Honeyeater](#) in the grasslands around Mareeba and [Northern Fantail](#) in the forest.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Granite Gorge

This private nature park has camping facilities and a basic kiosk. It is 12km from Mareeba via Chewko Road and Paglietta Road, and there are signposts along the route.



Granite Gorge (from the Car Park)

Their bird list includes a range of dry country species such as [Varied Sittella](#), [Weebill](#), [White-winged Triller](#) and [Apostlebird](#). [Squatter Pigeons](#) are now frequently seen here and [Tawny Frogmouths](#) nest yearly.

The huge granite boulders shelter abundant wildlife, including numerous Mareeba Rock Wallabies, and provide spectacular views of the Tableland.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Nardellos Lagoon

About 15km from Mareeba on the Atherton Road, just before Walkamin, turn off at Chewko Road. On the right is a large lagoon with abundant waterbirds, such as [Black Swans](#), and often [Swamp Harriers](#) in the dry season. The road returns to Mareeba as an alternative to the main road and passes the turn-off to Granite Gorge.



Nardello's Lagoon from Chewko Road

In December 2013, there was no access to the lagoon making a telescope essential.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Rocky Creek

Camping is allowed, for a 'gold coin' (\$1 or \$2) donation at **Rocky Creek Memorial Park**, located halfway between Walkamin and Tolga on the Kennedy Highway.



Rocky Creek Memorial Park

Look for [Bar-breasted Honeyeater](#) and [Varied Sittella](#) in the forest here.



Rocky Creek from the Highway

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Hasties Swamp

Located close to Atherton, this park is signposted with access from the Atherton-Herberton Road or the Kennedy Highway along Hasties Road, which connects them to Koci Road. A two-storey bird hide allows extensive views of the swamp and surrounding patches of the original eucalypt woodland. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/hasties-swamp/index.html>].



Hasties Swamp, Atherton Tableland

Depending on the season, this can be an excellent place for waterbird species including [Magpie Goose](#). Various sorts of duck turn up such as [Plumed Whistling-Duck](#) and even, in 2013, [Pink-eared Duck](#) and [Freckled Duck](#). Waders such as [Marsh Sandpiper](#) and [Latham's Snipe](#) occur; there is a record of [Ruff](#) and an

unconfirmed report of [Swinhoe's Snipe](#).

A complete bird list compiled by BLNQ is available from the [Atherton Information Centre](#) and the website of Birdlife Northern Queensland [<http://birdlifeq.org/brochures.htm>].

There are links to this section from three chapters:

- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)
- [Return to Innisfail-Atherton Map & Links](#).

Wongabel State Forest

The Wongabel Botanical Walk is 8km south of Atherton on the Kennedy Highway in the Wongabel State Forest. Many trees have been numbered and identified along the 2.6km circuit track, which is wheelchair accessible. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/wongabel/index.html>].



Wongabel State Forest

The track is also excellent for species such as [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#), [Atherton Scrubwren](#), [Wompoo Fruit-Dove](#), [White-throated Treecreeper](#) and [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#).

Less used is another track into the forest north of the Botanical Walk. Park near the sign saying 'Wongabel Botanical Walk 300m' and walk 25m to the track. [Noisy Pitta](#), [Fernwren](#) and [Red-necked Crane](#) have been seen from this path. There is a slight chance of [Masked Owl](#) at night.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

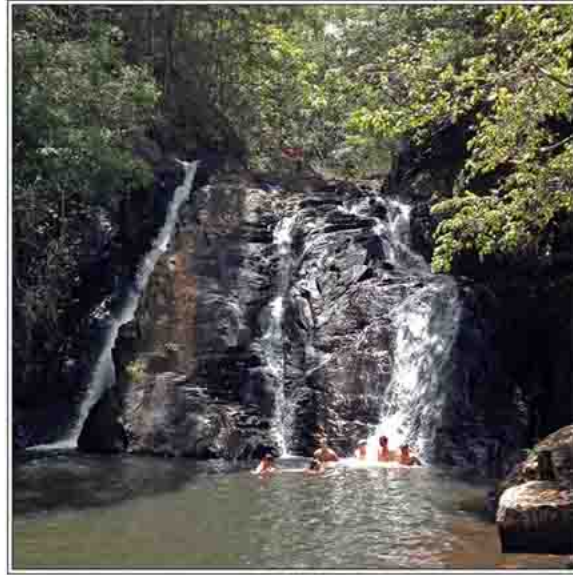
Mount Hypipamee National Park (The Crater)

Mount Hypipamee National Park is also called The Crater, not to be confused with [Crater Lakes National Park](#) on the Gillies Highway. It is an excellent birdwatching site, but plan to visit in the early morning or late afternoon, as it is also popular with non-birders and can be crowded at times. About 24km from Atherton, on the Kennedy Highway, this park is at a higher altitude and is cooler and usually wetter than Atherton. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/mount-hypipamee/index.html>].



Mt Hypipamee Crater

The Crater itself is a 'volcanic pipe' less than 70m across, with sheer granite walls plunging 58m to the lake, which is 82m deep. The birdlife in this park is often just as impressive! A 400m fairly level track leads to the lookout above the crater and a 700m track descends from the first track to Dinner Creek Falls and then climbs back up to rejoin it at the lookout.



Dinner Creek Falls

Look in the forest around the toilet block at the picnic area and on the left at the start of the track, in a small gully, for [Fernwren](#), [Atherton Scrubwren](#) and [Chowchilla](#). [Grey-headed Robins](#), [Brush-turkeys](#) and [Bridled Honeyeaters](#) are extremely tame around the picnic area. [Golden Bowerbird](#) is often here, most usually during the breeding season, from October to March. With luck, the Atherton Tableland race of the [Bassian Thrush](#) may be found at the edge of the rainforest and on the track to Dinner Falls.



Green Ringtail Possum (Pseudocheirops archeri)

Curtain Fig Road, Northeastern Queensland, 4 Dec 2003 156586 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Green Ringtail Possum](#)]

At night The Crater has become a popular place for spotlighting and is often very busy with busloads of spotlighters, especially at weekends. Seven species of

possum, including Lemuroid Ringtail, Green Ringtail, Herbert River Ringtail, Coppery Brushtail and Striped Possum have been recorded here. There is also the chance of [Lesser Sooty Owl](#) or [Rufous Owl](#). No camping is allowed in the park. Watch also for fireflies, luminous fungi and Leaf-tailed Geckos.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Herberton Range National Park (Longlands Gap)

If the Crater is crowded a nearby alternative, 3km further south on the Kennedy Highway, is **Herberton Range National Park**. It used to be called Longlands Gap State Forest. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/herberton-range/index.html>].

Park 30m before the crest, in a roadwork dumpsite clearing on the left. Walk the overgrown track opposite that starts from the national park sign. Watch for [Golden Bowerbird](#), [Fernwren](#), [Chowchilla](#) and other rainforest species.



Track at Herberton Range National Park

When checked in December 2013, the overgrown track mentioned above was blocked by a fallen tree and the track beyond was not for the faint-hearted. This is a good site for the bowers of [Golden Bowerbird](#), so check local knowledge for their location and the current state of the track.

- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Kaban Area

On the drier western edge of the Tableland, the **Kaban area** offers an opportunity for finding a different range of dry-country species such as [Varied Sittella](#), [Painted](#)

Button-quail, Yellow Thornbill, Noisy Miner, Crested Shrike-tit, Fuscous Honeyeater and Grey Butcherbird.



Dry Forest in the Kaban District

The most popular birding route follows Flaggy Creek Road. From the Longlands Gap-Herberton Road, turn left (west) into this road, 2km before Wondecla. Temperate woodlands are easily accessible from the roadside.

Follow the unsealed section through the state forest to Kaban (about 15km from Wondecla). Continue to Ravenshoe in the same direction after a right-left zig-zag over an old railway line.

Alternatively, turn left to return to Longlands Gap. The latter gives access to more woodland along the north boundary of Tumoulin SF, less than 2km from Kaban.

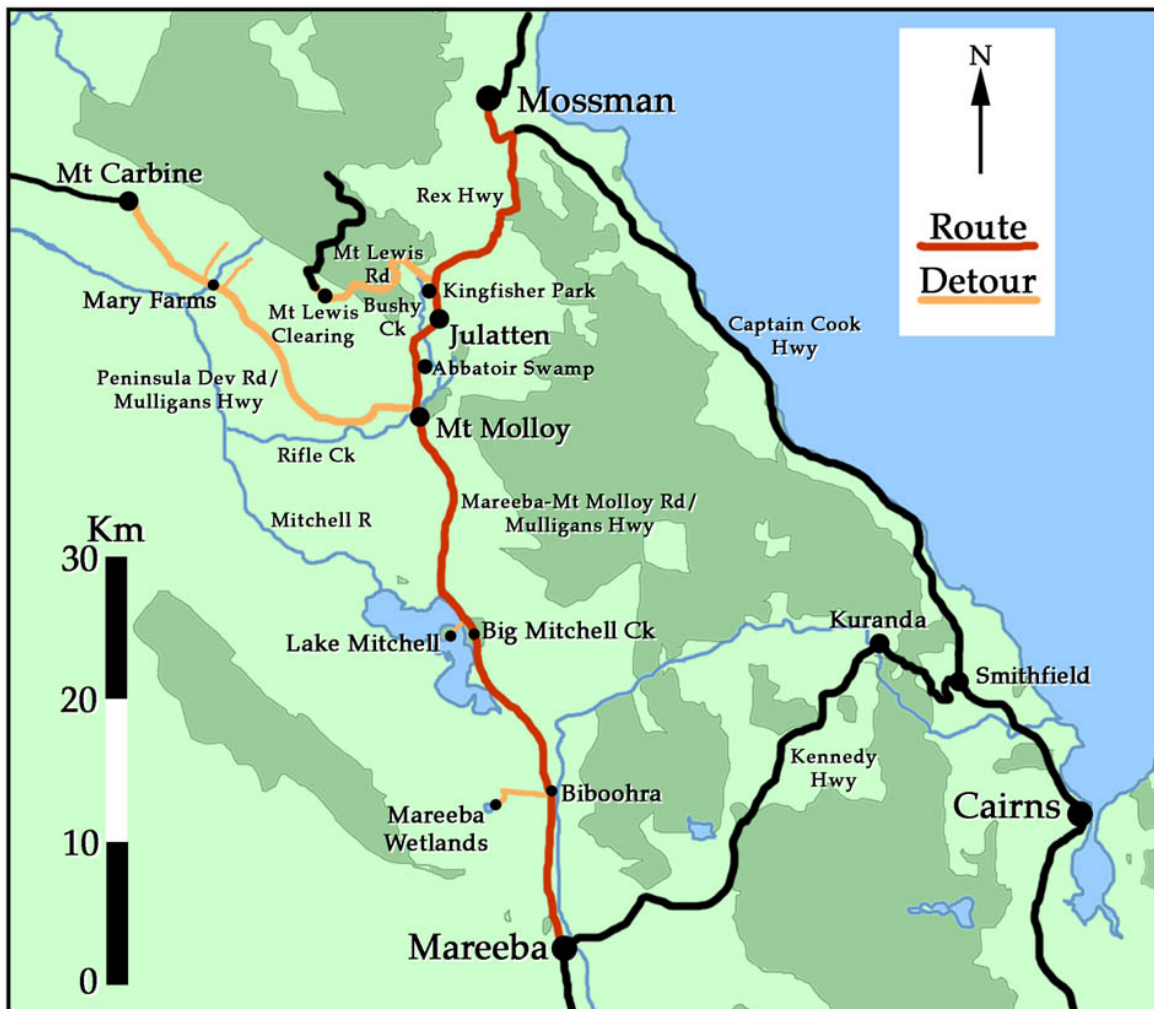
An alternative to returning from Ravenshoe on the Kennedy Highway is to take the Old Palmerston Highway from the Kennedy Highway north of Ravenshoe to Millaa Millaa. This is a scenic route with rainforest sections and several small waterfalls along the way. It is sealed but narrow and not recommended for caravans.

- [Guiding and Tours](#): Jonathon Munro.
- [Return to Kennedy Highway Map & Links](#)

Mareeba to Mossman

Mareeba to Mossman: Map & Links

The Rex Highway was the original route from the coast to the Herberton tin fields. The name is now used to refer to the Mossman-Mount Molloy Road, which leaves the Captain Cook Highway 5km south of Mossman and climbs steeply to the Tableland. Mulligans Highway refers to the route from Mareeba to Mount Molloy, also called the Mareeba-Mount Molloy Road and on to Cape York. That part of Mulligans Highway northwest of Mount Molloy is usually called the Peninsula Developmental Road.



- Mareeba Wetlands
- Big Mitchell Creek
- Lake Mitchell
- Mount Molloy
- Mary Farms-Mount Carbine

- [Julatten \(Kingfisher Park\)](#)
- [Mount Lewis State Forest](#)
- **Return to [Links to Location Chapters](#)**

Mareeba Wetlands

Mareeba Wetlands, run by the Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland, and Jabiru Safari Lodge have been closed since 28 April 2018. The Wildlife Conservancy plan to continue to hold open days and special events. Check the website [<http://www.mareebawetlands.org>] for details.

To reach **Mareeba Wetlands**, turn west into Pickford Road 8km north of Mareeba on the Mulligan Highway and follow the signs.



Jabiru Safari Lodge, Mareeba Wetlands

This artificial wetland attracts a great diversity of waterbirds and the surrounding woodland is good for land birds, including [Squatter Pigeon](#), [Black-throated Finch](#), and [Red-winged Parrot](#). There are several [Emus](#) in the grasslands. A [Gouldian Finch](#) breed-and-release program is underway. There is a charge for day visitors but the late opening times, except if you are booked on a guided tour, are not convenient for birding.

- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links](#)

Big Mitchell Creek

It is worth stopping at Big Mitchell Creek, 20km north of Mareeba, 19.5km south of Mount Molloy, on the Mulligan Highway. Here there are usually plenty of species including [Great Bowerbird](#), [Black-throated Finch](#) and [White-browed Robin](#). The robins may be in the thick vegetation along the creek. [Red Goshawk](#) has been

recorded here.



Big Mitchell Creek

- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links](#)

Lake Mitchell

This extensive, shallow, man-made wetland now attracts thousands of waterbirds including [Black Swans](#), especially in the dry season and is a reliable site for [Green Pygmy-Goose](#). [Radjah Shelduck](#), [Painted Snipe](#), [Pied Heron](#) and [Glossy Ibis](#) have been recorded here and it is worth checking for waders in summer. A scope is recommended. It is a public reserve and access is through a gate 22.5km north of Mareeba, about 17km south of Mount Molloy, and along a causeway.



Lake Mitchell from the Causeway

The woodland at the end of the causeway has a range of dry country species such as [Grey-crowned Babbler](#), [Little Friarbird](#), [White-winged Triller](#) and [Apostlebird](#). It is

on private land with no access at present.

- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links](#)

Mount Molloy

Mount Molloy, a small town with a gold mining past, has a hotel and several shops, including a cafe selling good Mexican meals. [Great Bowerbird](#) is common around the town. Free camping is allowed at Rifle Creek Rest Area.



Rifle Creek Rest Area

About 4km along the road to Julatten, on the right-hand side, is Abattoir Swamp. This small wetland has a good bird hide and is surrounded by melaleucas. [White-browed Crakes](#) are here when water in the swamp is shallow. Native trees and shrubs at the parking area attract [Northern Fantail](#) and a range of honeyeaters.



Abattoir Swamp Boardwalk and Hide

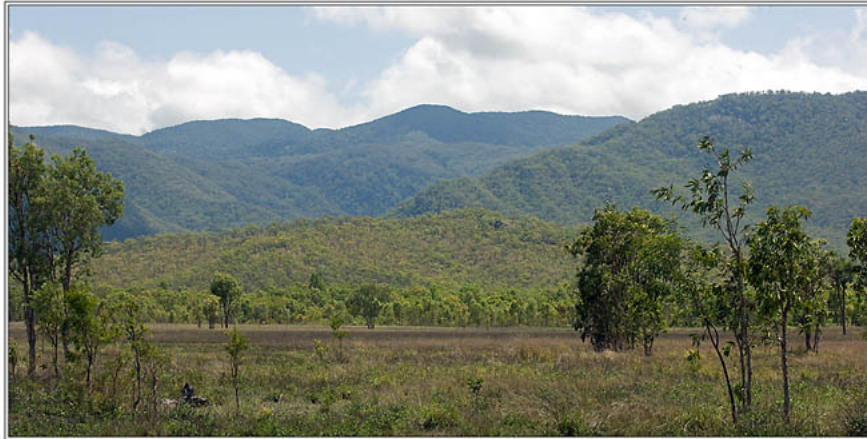
In September 2015 the boardwalk was closed for repairs.

- [Guiding and Tours](#): Close-up Birding Adventures, Lloyd Nielsen.

- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links.](#)

Mary Farms-Mount Carbine

As well as the chance of [Red Goshawk](#), some rewarding dry-country birding can be found along the Peninsula Development Road. **Mary Farms** is 20km north of Mount Molloy. Drive along either of the roads on the right and watch for [Bustard](#), [Galah](#), [Crested](#) and [Squatter](#) Pigeons, [Red-backed Kingfisher](#), [Brown Falcon](#) and [Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo](#).



Looking East to Mt Lewis from Mary Farms

At **Mount Carbine** the track leading to the old wolfram mine and dam is now closed but there may be [Apostlebird](#), [Grey-crowned Babbler](#), [Pale-headed Rosella](#), [White-gaped](#) and [Bar-breasted](#) Honeyeater, [Black-throated Finch](#) and [Common Bronzewing](#) in the surrounding woodland.



Mount Carbine

[Freckled Duck](#) was recorded at the dam in 2006. [Australian Painted Snipe](#) has been recorded near Mount Carbine. The only record of an Isabelline Wheatear in Australia was at the local sports ground. See the photo in the introductory [Chapters about Bird Families](#).

- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links](#)

Julatten (Kingfisher Park)

Julatten is a small farming community along the Rex Highway, about 10km north of Mt Molloy. Though most of the original forest in this district has been cleared for farming, Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers' Lodge [<http://www.birdwatchers.com.au>] is famous for the large number of rainforest birds to be found in its grounds.

[Red-necked Crakes](#) may make a brief appearance at a small pool in the rainforest at dusk. [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#), [Wompoo Fruit-Dove](#), [Noisy Pitta](#), [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#) (Nov-May), [Macleay's Honeyeater](#), [Spotted Catbird](#), [Pied Monarch](#), and at night, [Papuan Frogmouth](#) and [Barn](#) and [Lesser Sooty Owl](#) are just some of the species found in the surrounding forest and tropical fruit orchard.



Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge, Julatten

- [Accommodation Catering for Birders: Kingfisher Park.](#)
- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links.](#)

Mount Lewis National Park

Turn west on Mount Lewis Road, 1.6km north of Kingfisher Park, taking the left fork after Nissen Creek. After crossing Bushy Creek, Mount Lewis Road climbs steadily to over 1000m and has species typical of high altitude rainforest: [Golden Bowerbird](#), [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#), [Mountain Thornbill](#), [Fernwren](#), [Atherton Scrubwren](#), [White-cheeked Honeyeater](#) and [Eastern Whipbird](#). Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/mount-lewis/index.html>].



The Clearing on Mt Lewis Road

Check at Kingfisher Park if you are staying there for the condition of the road, which is narrow and steep and may be impassable to conventional vehicles after rain. The road goes for 28km but the best birding is at an old forestry clearing 10km from Bushy Creek, where there are tracks leading into the forest. The clearing itself is a good site for [Mountain Thornbill](#) as well as [Blue-faced Parrot-Finch](#) which may be in a mixed flock with [Red-browed Finch](#).



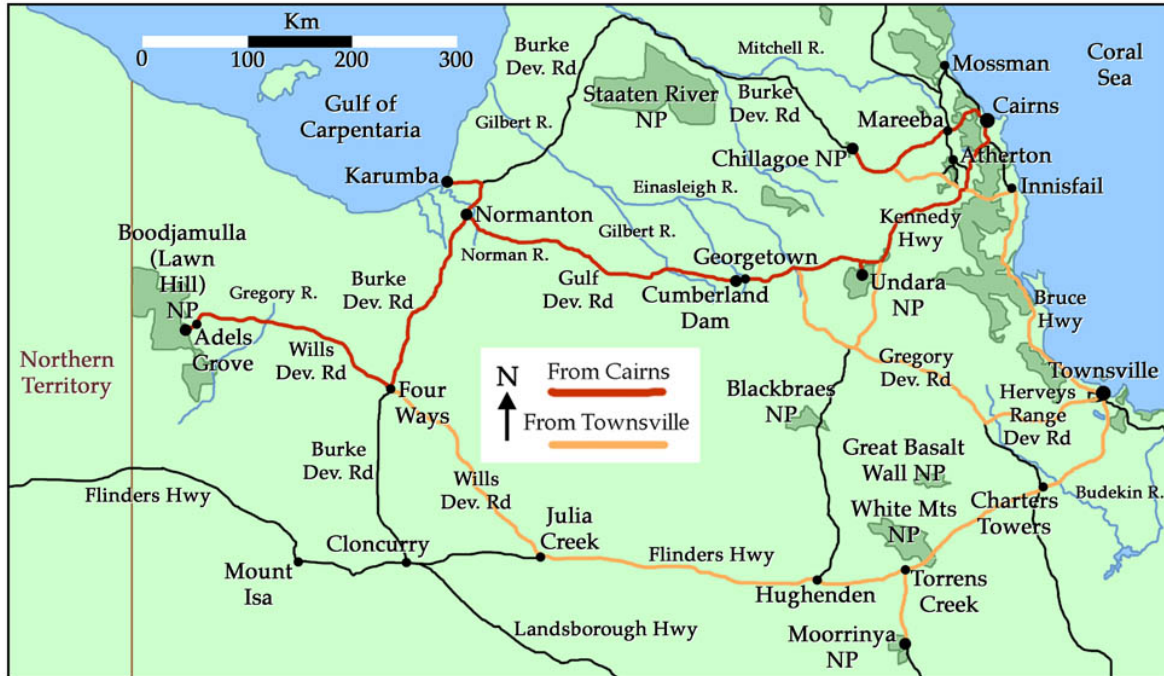
Mt Lewis: the Track on the South Side of the Clearing

The track on the south (uphill) side of the clearing can be excellent for the high altitude specialities including all of the Wet Tropics endemics. At the top take the path on the left, which leads to a small dam. This area is a part of Brooklyn Station, owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. The road beyond the clearing may be in poor condition and is not recommended.

- [Return to Mareeba to Mossman Map & Links](#)

Further Afield

Further Afield: Map & Links



- [Moorrinya National Park](#)
- [The Gulf Savannah](#)
- [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#)
- [Undara Volcanic National Park](#)
- [Cumberland Dam, Georgetown](#)
- [Normanton/Karumba](#)
- [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#)
- [Return to Getting Started](#)
- [Return to Links to Location Chapters](#)

Moorrinya National Park

This remote park, 386km from Townsville, was formerly a sheep then a cattle station. It has flat dry plains criss-crossed by watercourses and is covered with open eucalypt, paperbark and acacia woodlands, and grasslands. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/moorrinya/index.html>].

Over 160 species of birds have been recorded here including many inland species such as [Common Bronzewing](#), [Budgerigar](#), [Cockatiel](#), [Little Button-quail](#), [Crested](#)

Bellbird, Red-browed Pardalote, Spotted Bowerbird, White-plumed, Spiny-cheeked, Striped and Grey-headed Honeyeater. At night, spotlighting may reveal Owlet-nightjar, Spotted Nightjar and Southern Boobook.



Moorrinya National Park

The park is generally accessible from May to September and 4WD is recommended. Camping is near the old shearers' quarters and toilets are provided. Visitors must be self sufficient with food, water and cooking equipment/stove. Camping permits must be obtained in advance.

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

The Gulf Savannah

The Gulf Savannah region, west of the Great Dividing Range provides excellent birdwatching and is accessible in the dry season. The main roads are narrow but mostly sealed and most places can be reached with a conventional vehicle. Fuel and supplies are available in all towns but it would be cheaper to stock up with food before you leave the coast or Tableland. Distances from Cairns and Townsville are shown.

Habitats include: vast expanses of monsoon grassland plains with open eucalypt and ironbark woodland; lush riparian vegetation along the Gregory River and Lawn Hill Gorge; extensive mangroves and tidal mudflats near Karumba and the Norman River.

The Gulf Savannah Tourist Organisation has detailed information on the following and other locations: [<http://www.gulf-savannah.com.au>]

The Sunmap tourist map of Gulf Savannah is recommended.

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park

Chillagoe, 215km from Cairns, 483km from Townsville, is one of the five known Australian nesting sites of the [White-rumped Swiftlet](#). It nests from November to February, in colonies of 50 or more. At any time there will be plenty of birdlife around, including [Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo](#), [Common Bronzewing](#), [Red-winged Parrot](#), [White-winged Triller](#), [Apostlebird](#) and [Grey Butcherbird](#).

The sector between west and northeast of the town is best for birding, extending to Bolwarra, Blackdown and Wrotham Park. Finches are numerous and the [Gouldian](#) is still reported sometimes. Much of the land is not public, so birding is limited mainly to roadsides. There are hotels, motels and caravan parks in Chillagoe. QPWS rangers conduct daily tours of three of the caves. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/chillagoe-caves/index.html>].

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

Undara Volcanic National Park

Another place of great geological interest is the **Undara Lava Field**, 296km from Cairns, 430 km from Townsville. Link to QPRS website: [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/undara-volcanic/index.html>].

Although dry country birds are found here and there is a swamp nearby with large numbers of waterbirds after a good wet season, the main interest is the extensive lava tubes. Because of their fragility, access to the tubes is allowed only on guided full-day or shorter tour. Our guide was very knowledgeable about the wildlife, history and vegetation as well as the geology of the area. Accommodation at Lava Lodge is in converted railway carriages or in the camping areas.

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

Cumberland Dam, Georgetown

Georgetown is 380km from Cairns. Continue for a further 20km west of Georgetown, and turn south when you see an old, square chimney. After 300m you come to the **Cumberland Dam** picnic area. This is an excellent place for waterbirds, as well as dry country species such as [Crested](#), [Squatter](#) and [Spinifex](#) Pigeon, [Diamond Dove](#), [Red-backed Kingfisher](#), [Jacky Winter](#), [Grey-crowned Babbler](#), [Ground Cuckoo-shrike](#), [Rufous Songlark](#) and usually three or four species of finch, including [Black-throated](#) and [Masked](#). Though their numbers have declined, [Gouldian Finch](#) is sometimes here. Check trees in bloom for [Varied Lorikeet](#).



Cumberland Dam, Georgetown District

Accommodation: Hotel, motel and caravan park at Georgetown; bush camping at Cumberland Dam where there are toilets, picnic tables and an observation platform overlooking the water.

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

Normanton/Karumba

Normanton is 712km from Cairns, 790km from Townsville. **Karumba** is a further 69km. The wetlands between Normanton and the newer port town of Karumba support huge numbers of waterbirds after the wet season. The coastal areas of the gulf are a major staging ground for migratory waders.

In the mangroves, watch for [White-breasted](#) and [Mangrove Golden Whistler](#), [Mangrove Grey Fantail](#), [Yellow White-eye](#), [Red-headed Honeyeater](#) and [Broad-billed Flycatcher](#). At Karumba, Ferryman Cruises, 07 4745 9155, run a morning birdwatcher cruise on the Norman River where there is a good chance of seeing these species and many others, including possibly [Great-billed Heron](#). Check flowering trees for [Varied Lorikeet](#).



Norman River at Karumba

The historic Gulflander train from Croydon to Normanton provides an alternative attraction for non-birding or less enthusiastic members of the family.

Accommodation: there are caravan parks, motels and some unique hotels in Normanton.

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park

Lawn Hill Gorge, 1151km from Cairns, 1122km from Townsville, is an oasis in the surrounding dry savannah. Fed by numerous springs there is year round water, abundant tropical vegetation and amazing birdlife.



Upper Gorge at Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park

Twenty kilometres of walking tracks lead through dry, rocky hills to lookouts and upper sections of the gorge. A canoe trip through the gorge is highly recommended

as the perfect way to see [Sandstone Shrike-thrushes](#) and hear their echoing calls.

Other specialties include [Grey Falcon](#), [Spinifex Pigeon](#), [Red-collared Lorikeet](#), [Varied Lorikeet](#), [Northern Rosella](#), [Black-tailed Treecreeper](#), [Purple-crowned Fairy-wren](#), [Silver-crowned Friarbird](#), [Black-chinned \(Golden-backed\) Honeyeater](#), [Buff-sided Robin](#), [Little Woodswallow](#) and [Painted Finch](#).

The national park has grassed campsite close to the gorge. It is essential to book six weeks in advance - more during school holidays. Book [online](#) or phone 13 1304; see the [Queensland National Parks](#) page. Link to QPRS website [<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/boodjamulla/index.html>].



Lawn Hill Creek at Adel's Grove

Adels Grove, the service centre for Boodjamulla, has pleasant camping sites near Lawn Hill Creek, a restaurant, canoe hire, stores, fuel and mechanical repairs. It is 10km from the national park. Birdlife is similar to that in the park and [Buff-sided Robin](#) is common. Freshwater Crocodile occurs in the creek.



Freshwater Crocodile (Crocodylus johnstoni)

Adels Grove, Northeastern Queensland, 26 July 2008

80802 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Contact: Adels Grove, PMB 2, Mt Isa, Qld. 4825; 07 4748 5502;
reservations@adelsgrove.com.au. Information and bookings:
[www.adelsgrove.com.au].

Note: The last 100km stretch of road, from Gregory River to Lawn Hill, is unsealed.

- [Return to Further Afield Map & Links](#)

MAIN SECTION 2: BIRDS

Links to Topics in this Chapter

- [Finding Birds in the Book](#)
- [Taxonomy](#)
- [Endemic Species](#)
- [Other Species of Special Interest](#)
- [Alphabetic List of Bird Families](#)

Finding Birds in the Book

This **Main Section 2: Birds** contains a chapter for each bird family found in North-east Queensland. The bird family chapters are arranged in the taxonomic sequence used by the Working List of Australian Birds of Birdlife Australia, as detailed in the following section on [Taxonomy](#).

There are several ways too find your way around this birds section in addition to linking directly to particular species from locations. Here are some suggestions.

- The alphabetical [Index to Bird Names](#) at the end of the book
- The list of 13 [Wet Tropics Endemics](#) in this chapter
- The list of about 100 Species of Special Interest in this chapter
- The [Alphabetic List of Bird Families](#) in this chapter
- Searching the Table of Contents for bird families
- Using the Search facility in the reader software that you are using

Each bird family chapter starts with a list providing links to all the included species of the family concerned.

- Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)

Taxonomy

Names and taxonomic order used follow the Working List of Australian Birds of Birdlife Australia (Version 2.1 at time of publication) which may be downloaded as an Excel file at [<http://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>]. This list follows mainly the Birdlife International List [<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/taxonomy>] in sequence and definition of species and subspecies, but includes cross references to these other lists:

- Christidis & Boles (2008) [<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5702.htm>]
- IOC [<http://www.worldbirdnames.org>]
- Clements [<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/>]

- **Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)**
- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- **Return to [About Main Section 2: Birds](#)**

Endemic Species

Thirteen species of birds are endemic to the lowland and highland forests between Mt Elliot, just south of Townsville and Cooktown, north of Cairns. These are often referred to as the Wet Tropics endemics as this area corresponds approximately to the Wet Tropic World Heritage Area.

- [Lesser Sooty Owl](#)
- [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#)
- [Golden Bowerbird](#)
- [Macleay's Honeyeater](#)
- [Bridled Honeyeater](#)
- [Fernwren](#)
- [Atherton Scrubwren](#)
- [Mountain Thornbill](#)
- [Chowchilla](#)
- [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#)
- [Pied Monarch](#)
- [Victoria's Riflebird](#)
- [Grey-headed Robin](#)*

* Endemic status of Grey-headed Robin depends on split from Ashy Robin of New Guinea. See taxonomic note in [Grey-headed Robin](#).

- **Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)**
- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- **Return to [About Main Section 2: Birds](#)**

Other Species of Special Interest

In addition to the [Thirteen Wet Tropics endemics](#), the region has many other species of special interest, typically because of limited geographic range or accessibility. These include the following.

- [Southern Cassowary](#)
- [Magpie Goose](#)
- [Radjah Shelduck](#)
- [Cotton Pygmy-Goose](#)
- [Green Pygmy-Goose](#)
- [Australian Brush-turkey](#)
- [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#)
- [Torresian Imperial-Pigeon](#)
- [Superb Fruit-Dove](#)
- [Australian Bustard](#)
- [Papuan Frogmouth](#)
- [Large-tailed Nightjar](#)
- [Australian Swiftlet](#)
- [Red-necked Crake](#)
- [Pale-vented Bush-hen](#)
- [White-browed Crake](#)
- [Sarus Crane](#)
- [Brolga](#)
- [Bush Stone-curlew](#)
- [Beach Stone-curlew](#)
- [Comb-crested Jacana](#)
- [Little Curlew](#)
- [Wandering Tattler](#)
- [Common Noddy](#)
- [Sooty Tern](#)
- [Bridled Tern](#)
- [Roseate Tern](#)
- [Black-naped Tern](#)
- [Lesser Crested Tern](#)
- [Black-necked Stork](#)
- [Great-billed Heron](#)
- [Pied Heron](#)
- [Lesser Frigatebird](#)
- [Great Frigatebird](#)
- [Brown Booby](#)
- [Brahminy Kite](#)
- [Eastern Grass Owl](#)
- [Rufous Owl](#)
- [Little Kingfisher](#)
- [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#)

- [Blue-winged Kookaburra](#)
- [Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo](#)
- [Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#)
- [Spotted Catbird](#)
- [Great Bowerbird](#)
- [Purple-crowned Fairy-wren](#)
- [Lovely Fairy-wren](#)
- [Red-backed Fairy-wren](#)
- [Dusky Honeyeater](#)
- [Red-headed Honeyeater](#)
- [Helmeted Friarbird](#)
- [Rufous-throated Honeyeater](#)
- [Brown-backed Honeyeater](#)
- [Bar-breasted Honeyeater](#)
- [White-gaped Honeyeater](#)
- [Yellow Honeyeater](#)
- [Yellow-spotted Honeyeater](#)
- [Graceful Honeyeater](#)
- [Varied Honeyeater](#)
- [Fairy Gerygone](#)
- [Large-billed Gerygone](#)
- [Mangrove Gerygone](#)
- [Barred Cuckoo-shrike](#)
- [Varied Triller](#)
- [Grey Whistler](#)
- [White-breasted Whistler](#)
- [Green Oriole](#)
- [Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#)
- [Black Butcherbird](#)
- [Northern Fantail](#)
- [White-eared Monarch](#)
- [White-browed Robin](#)
- [Buff-sided Robin](#)
- [Pale-yellow Robin](#)
- [Mangrove Robin](#)
- [Olive-backed Sunbird](#)
- [Crimson Finch](#)
- [Plum-headed Finch](#)
- [Masked Finch](#)
- [Black-throated Finch](#)
- [Blue-faced Parrot-Finch](#)
- [\(Eastern\) Yellow Wagtail](#)
- [Zitting Cisticola](#)
- [Red-rumped Swallow](#)
- [Barn Swallow](#)
- [Metallic Starling](#)
- **[Return to Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)**

- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- **Return to [About Main Section 2: Birds](#)**

Alphabetic List of Bird Families

[Acanthizidae](#) - Thornbills and Gerygones
[Accipitridae](#) - Eagles, Kites, Goshawks and Osprey
[Acrocephalidae](#) - Reed-Warblers
[Aegothelidae](#) - Owlet-nightjars
[Alaudidae](#) - Larks
[Alcedinidae](#) - Kingfishers
[Anatidae](#) - Ducks, Geese and Swans
[Anhingidae](#) - Darters
[Anserantidae](#) - Magpie Goose
[Apodidae](#) - Swifts and Swiftlets
[Ardeidae](#) - Herons, Egrets and Bitterns
[Artamidae](#) - Woodswallows, Currawongs, Butcherbirds and Magpie
[Burhinidae](#) - Stone-curlews
[Cacatuidae](#) - Cockatoos and Corellas
[Campepagidae](#) - Cuckoo-shrikes and Trillers
[Caprimulgidae](#) - Nightjars
[Casuariidae](#) - Emus and Cassowaries
[Charadriidae](#) - Plovers, Dotterel and Lapwings
[Ciconiidae](#) - Storks
[Cisticolidae](#) - Cisticolas
[Climacteridae](#) - Treecreepers
[Columbidae](#) - Pigeons and Doves
[Coraciidae](#) - Rollers
[Corcoracidae](#) - Chough and Apostlebird
[Corvidae](#) - Crows and Ravens
[Cuculidae](#) - Cuckoos
[Dicaeidae](#) - Flowerpeckers
[Dicruridae](#) - Drongos
[Estrildidae](#) - Weaver Finches
[Eurostopodidae](#) - Eared Nightjars
[Falconidae](#) - Falcons
[Falcunculidae](#) - Shriketits
[Fregatidae](#) - Frigatebirds
[Glareolidae](#) - Pratincoles
[Gruidae](#) - Cranes
[Haematopodidae](#) - Oystercatchers
[Hirundinidae](#) - Swallows and Martins
[Jacanidae](#) - Jacanas
[Laridae](#) - Gulls, Terns and Noddies
[Locustellidae](#) - Songlarks and Grassbirds
[Machaerirhynchidae](#) - Boatbills
[Maluridae](#) - Fairy-wrens, Emu-wrens and Grasswrens
[Megapodidae](#) - Mound Builders
[Meliphagidae](#) - Honeyeaters and Chats

[Meropidae](#) - Bee-eaters
[Monarchidae](#) - Monarchs and Flycatchers
[Motacillidae](#) - Pipits and Wagtails
[Nectariniidae](#) - Sunbirds
[Neosittidae](#) - Sittellas
[Oceanitidae](#) - Southern Storm-Petrels
[Oreoicidae](#) - Australo-Papuan Bellbirds
[Oriolidae](#) - Orioles and Figbirds
[Orthonychidae](#) - Logrunners
[Otididae](#) - Bustards
[Pachycephalidae](#) - Whistlers, Shrike-thrushes and allies
[Pandionidae](#) - Ospreys
[Paradisaeidae](#) - Birds of Paradise
[Pardalotidae](#) - Pardalotes
[Passeridae](#) - Sparrows
[Pelecanidae](#) - Pelicans
[Petroicidae](#) - Australian Robins
[Phaethontidae](#) - Tropicbirds
[Phalacrocoracidae](#) - Cormorants and Shags
[Phasianidae](#) - Pheasants and Quail
[Pittidae](#) - Pittas
[Podargidae](#) - Frogmouths
[Podicipedidae](#) - Grebes
[Pomatostomidae](#) - Australian Babblers
[Procellariidae](#) - Petrels and Shearwaters
[Psittacidae](#) - Parrots, Lorikeets and Rosellas
[Psophodidae](#) - Whipbirds and Wedgebills
[Ptilonorhynchidae](#) - Bowerbirds and Catbirds
[Rallidae](#) - Crakes, Rails and Swampheens
[Recurvirostridae](#) - Stilts and Avocets
[Rhipiduridae](#) - Fantails
[Rostratulidae](#) - Painted Snipe
[Scolopacidae](#) - Snipes, Sandpipers, Godwits, Curlew, Stints and Phalaropes
[Strigidae](#) - Hawk-Owls
[Sturnidae](#) - Starlings
[Sulidae](#) - Boobies and Gannets
[Threskiornithidae](#) - Ibises and Spoonbills
[Turdidae](#) - Thrushes
[Turnicidae](#) - Button-quail
[Tytonidae](#) - Masked Owls
[Zosteropidae](#) - Silvereye and White-eyes

- **Return to [Links to Topics in this Chapter](#)**
- **Return to [Getting Started](#)**
- **Return to [About Main Section 2: Birds](#)**

Casuariidae - Emus and Cassowaries

Links to Species

- [Southern Cassowary](#)
- [Emu](#)

Southern Cassowary (Casuarius casuarius)

Species of Special Interest. Endangered because of loss of habitat. Highest population is in lowland rainforest, especially the Mission Beach area. Small numbers are still found on the Atherton Tableland and other upland areas.



Southern Cassowary (Casuarius casuarius johnsonii)

Etty Bay, NE Queensland, 16 September 2013

155630 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Southern Cassowary](#)].

See: [Billabong Sanctuary](#), [Wallaman Falls](#), [Tully Gorge](#), [Mission Beach](#), [Lacey Creek State Forest Park](#), [The Kennedy Track](#), [Etty Bay](#), [The 'Jubilee Highway'](#), [Coquette Point National Park](#), [Kuranda](#).

Australian race is *johnsonii*.

Note that males, particularly with chicks, and half-tame birds accustomed to being fed, can be dangerous. If you see a cassowary avoid confrontation: keep your distance, do not feed or frighten it, and avoid getting between a father and his chicks. Back off slowly, watching the bird as you go. Please drive carefully in Cassowary country: many are killed on roads.

Emu (Dromaius novaehollandiae)

Scarce in the drier westerly parts of this region. There are small populations along [the inland route to Paluma](#) and in the dry country around [Mareeba Wetlands](#).



Emu (Dromaius novaehollandiae)

Mareeba, North-eastern Queensland, 11 September 2008

80330 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Mainland race is the nominate one (Tasmanian race *diemenensis* is extinct).

More photos at [[Birdway: Emu](#)].

Anserantidae - Magpie Goose

Magpie Goose (Anseranas semipalmata)

Species of Special Interest. Very large flocks in the Townsville-Burdekin wetlands ([Cromarty](#), [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#), [Billabong Sanctuary](#)). Fewer further north. Near Cairns, try [Yorkeys Knob](#). On the Tableland try [Hasties Swamp](#).



Magpie Goose (Anseranas semipalmata)

Hodel Road, Northeastern Queensland, 15 March 2003

16145 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Magpie Goose](#)].

Monotypic.

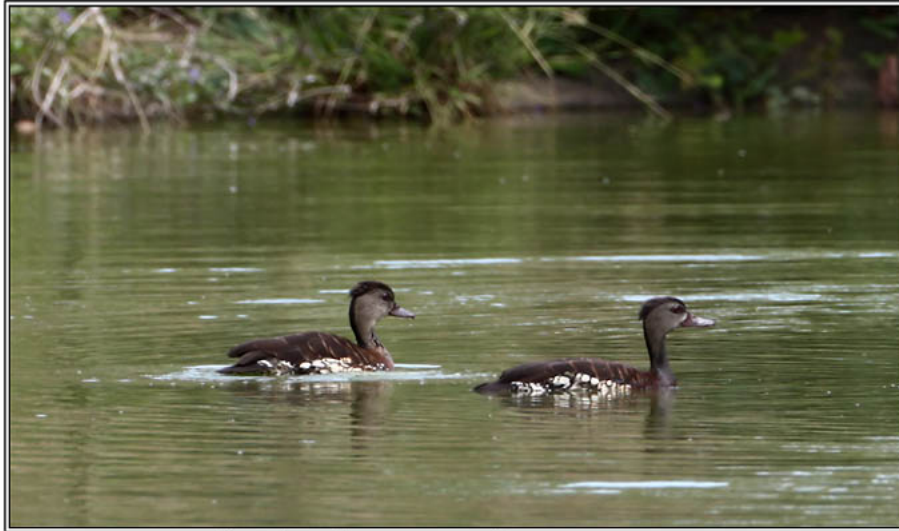
Anatidae - Ducks, Geese and Swans

Links to Species

- [Spotted Whistling-Duck](#)
- [Plumed Whistling-Duck](#)
- [Wandering Whistling-Duck](#)
- [Pink-eared Duck](#)
- [Black Swan](#)
- [Radjah Shelduck](#)
- [Hardhead](#)
- [Australasian Shoveler](#)
- [Pacific Black Duck](#)
- [Grey Teal](#)
- [Chestnut Teal](#)
- [Garganey](#)
- [Freckled Duck](#)
- [Australian Wood Duck](#)
- [Cotton Pygmy-Goose](#)
- [Green Pygmy-Goose](#)

Spotted Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna guttata)

The Spotted Whistling-Duck, a resident of New Guinea, has established a small breeding population on Cape York (Weipa, Mungkan Kandju National Park and Lockhart River). It appears to be spreading south with recent records at time of publication (2018) at Cairns (Cattana Wetlands), Mission Beach, Mungala Station near Ingham and Townsville.



Spotted Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna guttata)

Lockhart River, Northern Queensland, 30 November 2009

97232 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotted Whistling-Duck](#)].

Monotypic.

Plumed Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna eytoni)

Nomadic. Flocks sometimes visit freshwater lagoons and swamps. Large flocks south of Townsville. Less common on the Tableland but sometimes present in large numbers at [Hasties Swamp](#) and [Tinaburra Peninsula](#).



Plumed Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna eytoni)

Hastings Swamp, Atherton Tableland, Far North Queensland, 14 July 2006

36781 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Plumed Whistling-Duck](#)].

Monotypic.

- **Return to [Getting Started](#).**

Wandering Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna arcuata)

More common than the Plumed Whistling-Duck. Found in wetlands, both coastal and on the Tableland.



Wandering Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna arcuata australis)

Killymoon Creek, East of Alligator Creek, NE Queensland, 14 April 2002

09218 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian and southern New Guinean race *australis* (above) is larger than nominate race of Indonesia and the Philippines.

More photos at [[Birdway: Wandering Whistling-Duck](#)].

Pink-eared Duck (Malacorhynchus membranaceus)

Nomadic. Rare visitor to freshwater areas, usually in response to inland drought. Usually absent from the coast. In 2013, recorded from various sites including [Hasties Swamp](#), [Townsville Common](#) and [Ross River Dam](#).



Pink-eared Duck (Malacorhynchus membranaceus)

Hasties Swamp, Northeastern Queensland, 15 September 2013

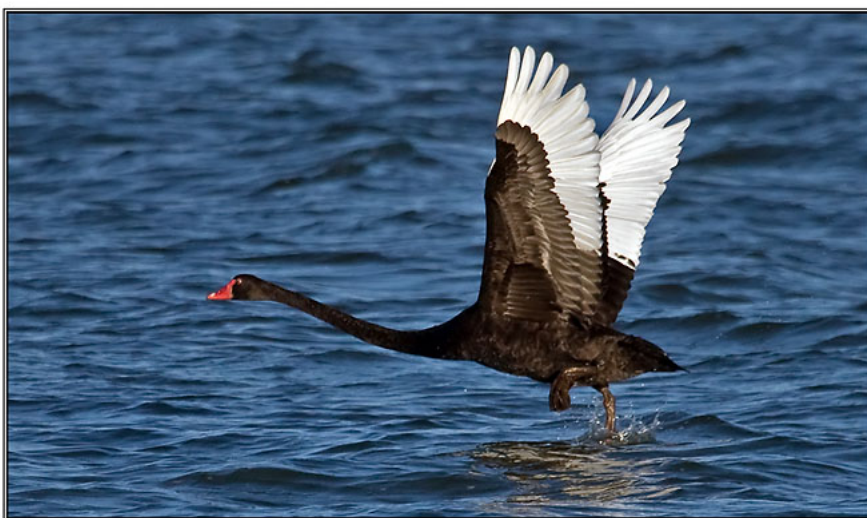
155559 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pink-eared Duck](#)].

Monotypic.

Black Swan (Cygnus atratus)

Not as common as in southern states. Large flocks are seen in the [Cromarty](#) area. Smaller numbers are found at [Lake Tinaroo](#), [Lake Mitchell](#) and [Nardellos Lagoon](#) on the Tableland.



Black Swan (Cygnus atratus)

Lake Ross, Northeastern Queensland, 15 August 2010

106364 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black Swan](#)].

Monotypic.

Radjah Shelduck (Radjah radjah)

Species of Special Interest. A rare visitor to this area. Try St Lawrence, south of Mackay, if you are driving south that way. More common north of the Mitchell River; has been recorded at [Lake Mitchell](#) and [Wonga Beach](#).



Radjah Shelduck (Tadorna radjah rufitergum)

Wonga Beach, Northeastern Queensland, 31 March 2014 157208 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *rufitergum* has more reddish brown, less black back and breast band than nominate race of New Guinea and eastern Indonesia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Radjah Shelduck](#)].

Hardhead (Aythya australis)

Generally common: prefers deeper water e.g. [Tinaroo](#) and [Ross River Dams](#).



Hardhead (Aythya australis)

Hasties Swamp, Northeastern Queensland, 15 September 2013

155306 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Hardhead](#)].

Monotypic.

Australasian Shoveler (Anas rhynchotis)

Another scarce visitor to freshwater swamps.



Australasian Shoveler (Anas rhynchotis)

Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand, 13 November, 2011

121847 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate Australian race less brightly coloured than New Zealand race *variegata* (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Australasian Shoveler](#)].

Pacific Black Duck (Anas superciliosa)

The most common duck throughout the region.

See: [Ross River](#).



Pacific Black Duck (Anas superciliosa rogersi)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 12 August 2008

81360 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *rogersi* (above) very similar to nominate race of New Zealand.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pacific Black Duck](#)].

Grey Teal (Anas gracilis)

The second most common duck after the Pacific Black Duck.



Grey Teal (Anas gracilis)

Hasties Swamp, Northeastern Queensland, 15 Sept 2013 155219 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race in Australasia; two other races in Indonesia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Teal](#)].

Chestnut Teal (Anas castanea)

Rare visitor to the Tablelands, Cairns District and Townsville District, e.g. Cape Cleveland Salt Pans in Bowling Green Bay National Park (2017).



Chestnut Teal (*Anas castanea*)

Pearl Beach, New South Wales, 3 January 2010

98021 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Chestnut Teal](#)].

Monotypic.

***Garganey* (*Anas querquedula*)**

Very rare. A small flock at Blakeys Crossing (see map in [About Townsville](#)) in 1988 and a single bird at the same location in 1992. Monotypic.

***Freckled Duck* (*Stictonetta naevosa*)**

May appear in northeastern Queensland at times of drought in Western Queensland. A few records from [Mt Carbine](#) (2006), [Hasties Swamp](#) (2013, 2015), [Lake Ross](#) (2013) and [Townsville Common](#) (2013) and in the Charters Towers region.



Freckled Duck (Stictonetta naevosa)

Hasties Swamp, Northeastern Queensland, 15 Sept 2013 155317 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Freckled Duck](#)].

Monotypic.

Australian Wood Duck (Chenonetta jubata)

Visitor to lowland and Tableland lagoons and dams. Sometimes on the grassy shores of Lake Tinaroo at [Tinaburra](#). Smaller numbers in wetlands around Ayr and Townsville.



Australian Wood Duck (Chenonetta jubata)

Lake Tinaroo, Yungaburra, Atherton Tableland, 12 July 2006

36325 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Wood Duck](#)].

Monotypic.

Cotton Pygmy-Goose (Nettapus coromandelianus)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon resident of freshwater lagoons and swamps well covered with aquatic vegetation. Regularly seen at [Tinaroo](#), [Horseshoe Lagoon](#), [Ross River and Lake Ross](#). See also [the inland route to Paluma](#).



Cotton Pygmy-Goose (Nettapus coromandelianus albipennis)

Ross River, Townsville, NE Queensland, 17 July 2005

17416 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Photo shows male in front, female behind.

More photos at [[Birdway: Cotton Pygmy-Goose](#)].

Australian race *albipennis* is larger than nominate race of southern and Southeast Asia and New Guinea.

Green Pygmy-Goose (Nettapus pulchellus)

Species of Special Interest. Resident on freshwater at all altitudes, especially where there are water-lilies as it feeds on the seeds and flowers.

See: [Centenary Lakes](#) and [Yorkeys Knob](#).



Green Pygmy-Goose (Nettapus pulchellus)

Lake Mitchell, Northeastern Queensland, 26 January 2007

46615 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Photo shows female on left, male on right.

More photos at [[Birdway](http://birdway.com.au): [Green Pygmy-Goose](http://birdway.com.au)].

Monotypic.

Megapodidae - Mound Builders

Links to Species

- [Australian Brush-turkey](#)
- [Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#)

Australian Brush-turkey (*Alectura lathami*)

Species of Special Interest. Common in rainforest and vine scrub, especially where Scrubfowl are scarce or absent. Very common and tame around most picnic grounds!

See: [Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#), [Lake Barrine](#), [Malanda Falls Conservation Park](#), [The Crater National Park](#).



*Australian Brush-turkey (*Alectura lathami lathami*)*

Alligator Creek, NE Queensland, 12 August 2008

81317 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The nominate yellow-collared race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland. North of Cooktown it is replaced by the pink- or purple-collared Cape York race *purpureicollis*, (below).



Australian Brush-turkey (Alectura lathami purpureicollis)

Lockhart River, Cape York, 23 December 2003

04129 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Brush-Turkey](#)].

Orange-footed Scrubfowl (Megapodius reinwardt)

Species of Special Interest. Resident and fairly common, especially at lower altitudes, in rainforest, vine scrubs, gallery forest and on islands. Shy and will run quickly when disturbed or fly up into a tree, but fairly tame around [Kingfisher Park](#). Often very vocal at night. There is a huge old mound at [Wonga Beach](#).

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#), [Centenary Lakes](#), [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#), [Malanda Falls Conservation Park](#), [Palmerston Section](#), [Wooroonooran National Park](#).



Orange-footed Scrubfowl (*Megapodius reinwardt castanonotus*)

Kingfisher Park, Julatten, NE Queensland, 9 Nov 2002

13205 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Some authorities separate Australian population into three races all larger than the nominate race of eastern Indonesia, New Guinea and possibly islands of Torres Strait: darker less olive *tumulus* of Northern Territory and northern Western Australia, *yorki* on Cape York, and *castanonotus* (above) from Cooktown south to Yeppoon, but differences among them are slight.

More photos at [[Birdway: Orange-footed Scrubfowl](#)].

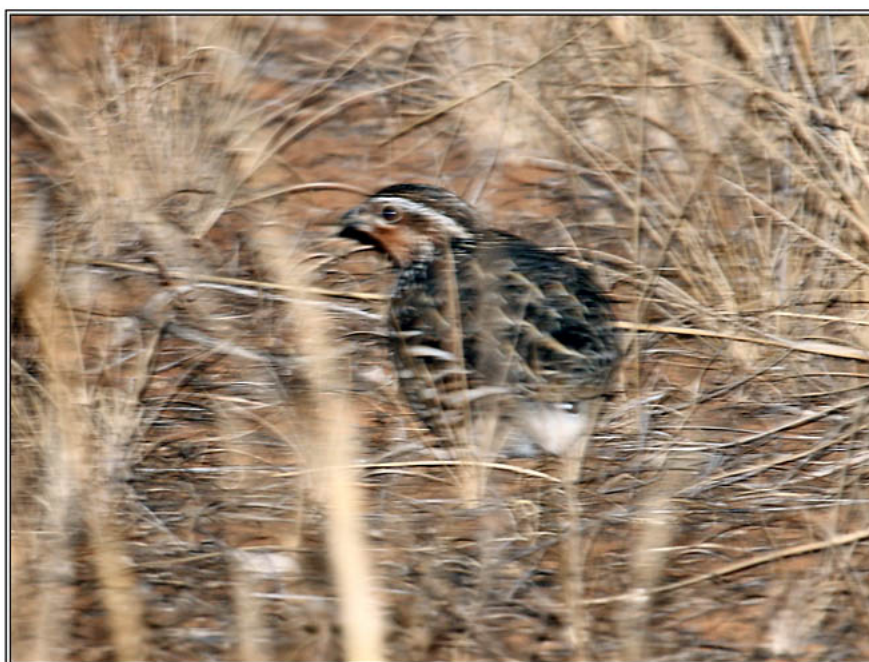
Phasianidae - Pheasants and Quail

Links to Species

- [Stubble Quail](#)
- [Brown Quail](#)
- [King Quail](#)

Stubble Quail (Coturnix pectoralis)

Irregular visitor to the Tableland and outskirts of Townsville.



Stubble Quail (Coturnix pectoralis)

Terrick Terrick, Victoria, 10 April 2009

87381 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Stubble Quail](#)].

Monotypic.

Brown Quail (Synoicus ypsilophorus)

Very common, grassland resident in most cleared areas. Often seen in small groups along grassy roadside edges.



Brown Quail (Synoicus ypsilophorus australis)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 21 January 2007

46354 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Quail](#)].

The larger, yellow-eyed nominate race is restricted to Tasmania; the red-eyed race *australis* occurs on the mainland.

King Quail (Synoicus chinensis)

Found in pastures and lucerne paddocks on the Tableland. Few records near the coast, occasionally near [Alva Beach](#), near Ayr.

Eastern Australian race *victoriae* occurs in northeastern Queensland; northwestern Australian race is *colletti* but differences are slight.

Podicipedidae - Grebes

Links to Species

- [Australasian Grebe](#)
- [Hoary-headed Grebe](#)
- [Great Crested Grebe](#)

Australasian Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*)

Common on most freshwater dams and lagoons



*Australasian Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*)*

Pentland, Northeastern Queensland, 25 June 2011

116559 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australasian Grebe](#)].

Nominate race in Australasia; other races in Indonesia and northern New Guinea differ slightly in size and colour.

Hoary-headed Grebe (*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*)

Very rare visitor to fresh water.



Hoary-headed Grebe (Poliiocephalus poliocephalus)

Birdsville Track, South Australia, 4 April 2013

152212 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Hoary-headed Grebe](#)].

Montotypic.

Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus)

Visitor, sometimes in large numbers, to freshwater areas, e.g. [Lake Barrine](#), [Tinaroo](#) and [Ross River](#) dams.



Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus australis)

Lake Alexandrina, South Island, New Zealand, 11 November 2011 121827 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Isolated Australian and New Zealand race *australis* (above) is slightly larger than nominate race of Eurasia, has darker mantle and tends to retain breeding plumage all year.

More photos at [[Birdway: Great-crested Grebe](#)].

Columbidae - Pigeons and Doves

Links to Species

- [Rock Dove](#)
- [White-headed Pigeon](#)
- [Spotted Dove](#)
- [Brown Cuckoo-Dove](#)
- [Spinifex Pigeon](#)
- [Squatter Pigeon](#)
- [Common Bronzewing](#)
- [Flock Bronzewing](#)
- [Crested Pigeon](#)
- [Diamond Dove](#)
- [Peaceful Dove](#)
- [Bar-shouldered Dove](#)
- [Emerald Dove](#)
- [Torresian Imperial-Pigeon](#)
- [Wompoo Fruit-Dove](#)
- [Superb Fruit-Dove](#)
- [Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove](#)
- [Topknot Pigeon](#)

Rock Dove (Columba livia)

Common in cities and towns but less so in other areas.



Rock Dove (Columba livia)

Balmain, New South Wales, 3 April 2007

47878 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Rock Dove](#)].

Introduced race is nominate European race.

White-headed Pigeon (Columba leucomela)

Numbers fluctuate. Sometimes singly or in small parties in rainforest. Occasionally in flocks of 30 or more in fruiting trees at [Yungaburra](#). Sometimes visits gardens at [Paluma](#).

See also [Birthday Creek Falls](#).



White-headed Pigeon (Columba leucomela)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 14 June 2011

116045 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-headed Pigeon](#)].

Monotypic.

Spotted Dove (Streptopelia chinensis)

Introduced to North Queensland in the early 40s. Present in Ayr, expanding their range in Townsville and a common resident in towns between Ingham and Mossman.



Spotted Dove (Streptopelia chinensis tigrina)

Brampton Beach, NE Queensland, 12 June 2010

105415 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Introduced race in northeastern Queensland, *tigrina* of Southeast Asia, (above) has black streaks on wing coverts and grey feathers on leading edge of wing.

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotted Dove](#)].

Brown Cuckoo-Dove (Macropygia amboinensis)

Common, widespread resident in rainforest and secondary growth. Often in roadside vegetation where it feeds on lantana and wild tobacco.

See: [Palmerston Section, Wooroonooran National Park](#).



Brown Cuckoo-Dove (Macropygia amboinensis quinkan)

Paluma, NE Queensland, 19 March 2010

99122 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Sometimes split into three Australian races: southern Australian *phasianella*; Wet Tropics *quinkan* (above); and *robinsoni* north of Cooktown. Size decreases northwards; male *robinsoni* has grey head.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Cuckoo-Dove](#)].

Spinifex Pigeon (Geophaps plumifera)

An inland species found near water in rocky country and spinifex, e.g. [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#) (where now rare) and [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Spinifex Pigeon (Geophaps plumifera leucogaster)

Opalton, Central Queensland, 26 June 2003

00489 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

White-bellied race *leucogaster* (above) occurs in Queensland; nominate race occurs in the Kimberley and Northwestern Northern Territory.

More photos at [[Birdway: Crested Pigeon](#)].

Squatter Pigeon (Geophaps scripta)

Common resident in woodland on the outskirts of Townsville and west of Paluma and in the drier areas of the Tableland - west of Mareeba and Mt Molloy.

See: [Giru](#), [Toonpan](#), [Oak Valley](#), [the Inland Route to Paluma](#), [Granite Gorge](#), [Mareeba Wetlands](#), [Mary Farms-Mt Carbine](#) and [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#).



Squatter Pigeon (Geophaps scripta scripta)

Carnarvon Gorge Road, Central Queensland, 1 April 2004 06838 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The nominate southern subspecies *scripta* (above) has blue skin around the eye ('orbital') in adults and ranges from Ayr southwards; the northern subspecies *peninsulae* resides north of about The Lynd and adults have pink or orange-red orbital skin (below); hybrids with varying amounts of blue and pink orbital skin occur from Townsville to the Herbert River. Juveniles of both subspecies have buff to yellowish orbital skin.



Squatter Pigeon (Geophaps scripta peninsulae)

Mt Surprise, Northern Queensland, 20 April 2018

186743 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Squatter Pigeon](#)].

Common Bronzewing (Phaps chalcoptera)

Uncommon in the drier parts of the area especially in the late dry season.

See: [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#), [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Common Bronzewing (Phaps chalcoptera)

Torrens Creek, NE Queensland, 28 June 2009

90777 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Bronzewing](#)].

Monotypic.

Flock Bronzewing (Phaps histrionica)

Highly nomadic, vagrant. Several records in [Toonpan](#) and Ingham area.



Flock Bronzewing (Phaps histrionica)

Bedourie, Western Queensland, 1 April 2013

151975 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Flock Bronzewing](#)].

Monotypic.

Crested Pigeon (Ocyphaps lophotes)

Resident in lightly wooded country: [Giru](#), [Alligator Creek](#), the outskirts of Townsville, west of [Ingham](#), and the drier parts of the Tableland.

See also: [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#).



Crested Pigeon (Ocyphaps lophotes)

Morris Creek, Giru District, Northeastern Queensland, 29 September 2007

59169 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Eastern Australian nominate race (above) is larger and has broader white tips on tail feathers than western Australian race *whitlocki*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Crested Pigeon](#)]

Diamond Dove (Geopelia cuneata)

Nomadic. Visits Townsville district, e.g. [Toonpan](#), and the western edge of the Tableland during some dry years. See also [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#).



Diamond Dove (Geopelia cuneata)

Toonpan, Northeastern Queensland, 27 August 2007

58260 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Diamond Dove](#)].

Monotypic.

Peaceful Dove (Geopelia striata)

Plentiful, widespread resident in all habitats except rainforest.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Peaceful Dove (Geopelia striata)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 18 October 2008

81165 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern Australian race (above) is greyer than the Pilbara race *clelandi*.
More photos at [[Birdway: Peaceful Dove](#)].

Bar-shouldered Dove (Geopelia humeralis)

Locally common in mangroves, gallery forest, swamp woodland. Also on continental islands.



Bar-shouldered Dove (Geopelia humeralis)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 16 October 2006

43039 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland.

More photos at [[Birdway: Bar-shouldered Dove](#)].

Brown-capped Emerald Dove (Chalcophaps indica)

Moderately common and widespread in rainforests (especially edges and secondary growth), vine scrubs, gallery forest and sometimes mangroves. Usually in pairs, feeding on the ground.

See: [Edmund Kennedy](#) and [Clump Mountain](#) National Parks, [Green Island](#).



Brown-capped Emerald Dove (Chalcophaps longirostris rogersi)

Kingfisher Park, Julatten, NE Queensland, 29 January 2005

12296 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The Emerald Dove of Asia and Australasia has been split into two species: *Chalcophaps longirostris*, the Brown-Capped (BirdLife) or Pacific Emerald Dove of Australasia and *Chalcophaps indica*, the Grey-capped or Common Emerald Dove of Southern and South-east Asia (including Christmas Island).

Males of shorter-billed eastern Australian race *rogersi* (above) have all-brown heads, while males of longer-billed northwestern Australian now nominate race *longirostris* have grey-maroon heads and underparts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown-capped/Pacific Emerald Dove](#)].

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon (Ducula spilorrhoa)

Species of Special Interest. Also called Pied Imperial-Pigeon† and, particularly in northern Queensland, Torres Strait Pigeon. Numerous in coastal lowlands and adjacent islands from September to April, migrating to New Guinea for the winter. Large numbers breed on small islands close to the coast, e.g. [Low Isles](#) and the Brook Islands, but feed on the mainland. Smaller numbers breed on larger continental islands and in mangroves and open forests on the mainland. Regular summer counts show that numbers have risen in recent years since shooting them has been outlawed. See [Mission Beach](#).

See also: [Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#), [Clump Mountain](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#), [Green Island](#) and [Daintree River](#).



Torresian Imperial-Pigeon (Ducula spilorrhoa)

Townsville, North Queensland, 10 October 2002

12474 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Torresian Imperial-Pigeon](#)].

‡Note: the Pied Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*) of SE Asia and Australasia has been split into three species: the Pied Imperial-Pigeon (*D. bicolor* sensu stricto) of SE Asia; the Torresian Imperial-Pigeon (*D. spilorrhoa*) of New Guinea and Australia; and the White Imperial-Pigeon (*D. luctuosa*) of Sulawesi.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus magnificus)

Common resident in rainforest at all altitudes and closed gallery forest, sometimes visiting fruiting trees in vine scrubs.

See: [Lake Morris](#) (Copperlode Falls Dam), [Crater Lakes National Parks](#), [Wongabel State Forest](#) and [Julatten](#).



Wompoo Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus magnificus keri)

Licuala Walk, Mission Beach, NE Queensland, 11 November 2007

60842 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Cape York race *assimilis* and northeastern Queensland race *keri* (above) are smaller than nominate race of coastal central and southern Queensland and NSW. Race *keri* has darker green upperparts and maroon rather than purple breast; *assimilis* has paler purplish maroon breast.

More photos at [[Birdway: Wompoo Fruit-Dove](#)].

Superb Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus superbus)

Species of Special Interest. Widespread in rainforest at all altitudes. Also on continental islands, e.g. [Magnetic](#), [Dunk](#) and [Hinchinbrook](#). Likely to be found where there are fruiting trees.

See: [Lake Morris](#) (Copperlode Falls Dam), [Atherton](#) and [Kuranda](#).



Male Superb Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus superbus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 15 February 2011

114699 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Both photos show birds displaced from their normal range by cyclone Yasi.



Female Superb Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus superbus)

Lucinda, Northeastern Queensland, 17 February 2011

114848 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia and New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Superb Fruit-Dove](#)].

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus regina)

Resident in rainforest and in open lowland forest and gallery forest. More abundant in coastal areas including islands, even ones as small as [Green Island](#).

See also: [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#), [Redden Island](#) and [Lake Morris](#) (Copperlode Falls Dam).



Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove (Ptilinopus regina)

Rowallan, Central Queensland, 11 June 2004

C07596 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of eastern Australia (above) has pink breast-band and darker purple crown than *ewingii* of northwestern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove](#)].

Topknot Pigeon (Lopholaimus antarcticus)

Mainly in highland and foothill rainforest such as [Paluma](#), often in large flocks of over 100. Nomadic, movements probably depend on availability of ripening figs and other fruit. Often near the coast June-July.

See also [Little Crystal Creek](#), [Birthday Creek Falls](#).



Topknot Pigeon (Lopholaimus antarcticus)

Henrietta Creek, Palmerston Highway, Northeastern Queensland, 13 June 2005

16210 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Topknot Pigeon](#)].

Monotypic.

Cuculidae - Cuckoos

Links to Species

- [Pheasant Coucal](#)
- [Eastern Koel](#)
- [Channel-billed Cuckoo](#)
- [Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo](#)
- [Black-eared Cuckoo](#)
- [Shining Bronze-Cuckoo](#)
- [Little Bronze-Cuckoo](#)
- [Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo](#)
- [Fan-tailed Cuckoo](#)
- [Brush Cuckoo](#)
- [Oriental Cuckoo](#)
- [Pallid Cuckoo](#)

Pheasant Coucal (Centropus phasianinus)

Common in coastal lowlands and continental islands wherever there is long grass. On the Tableland it is also in pastures and lantana thickets. Sadly, frequently seen as a road-kill.

See: [Oak Valley](#), [Goldsborough Valley](#).



Pheasant Coucal (Centropus phasianinus melanurus)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 7 March 2010

98770 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern Australian race *melanurus* found north of the Burdekin River is larger than the nominate race, and tail feathers have wider black bars.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pheasant Coucal](#)].

Eastern Koel (Eudynamys orientalis)

Common in woodland and urban areas during the summer months, October-April, when it parasitises the nests of [Australasian Figbird](#), [Olive-backed Oriole](#), [Magpie-lark](#), various species of [friarbird](#) and [Blue-faced Honeyeater](#).

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Male Eastern Koel (Eudynamys orientalis subcyanocephala)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 16 January 2004

05015 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

Northern Australian race *subcyanocephala* (above) is smaller than the southern race *cyanocephala*; female (below) has an unstreaked, rather than brown-streaked, black crown.



Female Eastern Koel (Eudynamys orientalis subcyanocephala)

Rowes Bay, Townsville, NE Queensland, 20 December 2014 163661 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Koel](#)].

Channel-billed Cuckoo (Scythrops novaehollandiae)

Very conspicuous in summer, arriving in September or October from New Guinea and Indonesia. Hosts include [Pied Currawongs](#), [Crows](#) and [Australian Magpies](#). On the return migration, it is sometimes in flocks of up to 50. In some years, birds overwinter in the [Daintree](#) area.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Channel-billed Cuckoo (Scythrops novaehollandiae)

Harvey's Range, Northeastern Queensland, 23 November 2012

150813 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Channel-billed Cuckoo](#)].

Monotypic.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites basalis)

Moderately common on the coast and Tableland in open forest.



Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites basalis)

Tyto Wetlands, Northeastern Queensland, 17 August 2005

18691 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo](#)].

Monotypic.

Black-eared Cuckoo (Chalcites osculans)

Occasional winter visitor southwest of Townsville.

Monotypic.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites lucidus)

Uncommon passage migrant in lowlands but present throughout the year in upland rainforest.



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites lucidus plagosus)

Alligator Creek, NE Queensland, 26 April 2004

06879 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds breeding in Australia are generally bronzer than the nominate race of New Zealand and are sometimes treated as a separate race *plagosus* (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Shining Bronze-Cuckoo](#)].

Little Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites minutillus)

Formerly treated as two species, the migratory Little Bronze-Cuckoo sensu stricto and the more rufous, resident Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo. Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo is now treated as a subspecies *russatus* of the Little Bronze Cuckoo.

The eastern Australian Little Bronze-Cuckoo, subspecies *barnardi* is probably mainly a winter migrant to Northern Queensland and occurs in mangroves, paperbark

woodland and rainforest edges. It is more abundant in upland areas than on the coast. The race *russatus* is resident in lowland areas in mangroves and adjoining woodland and rainforest. See [Bushland Beach](#) and [Redden Island](#).



Male Little Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites minutillus minutillus)

Adelaide River, Northern Territory, 5 September 2009

91441 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The first photo shows a male (with red eye-ring) of the nominate Western Australian Little Bronze-Cuckoo. The second photo shows a female (with pale eye-ring) of the race *russatus*. Note the bronze wash on the neck and shoulders.



Female Little Bronze-Cuckoo (Chalcites minutillus russatus)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 12 July 2008

80051 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Taxonomy of the Little Bronze-Cuckoo is subject to revision. At present three races

are recognised in Australia: the nominate Western Race breeds in northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory; the Eastern Australian race *barnardi*, less glossy and longer-winged than the nominate race, breeds in coastal Eastern Australia south to NE NSW; the bronze-washed *russatus* is resident in NE Queensland and Cape York. Other races occur in New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Bronze-Cuckoo](#)].

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (Cacomantis castaneiventris)

Rare in this area but common at Iron Range on Cape York. However there is a small population around the [Mt Lewis](#) area and it has been seen at [Kingfisher Park, Julatten](#).



Juvenile Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (Cacomantis castaneiventris)

Julatten District, Northeastern Queensland, 26 January 2007

46501 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

More photos at [[Birdway: Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo](#)].

Nominate race of northern Queensland (and Aru Islands of eastern Indonesia) is paler and brighter than the two other races of New Guinea.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo (Cacomantis flabelliformis)

Resident all year. More common in upland areas and transient on the coast. Likes edges and clearings in rainforest.



Fan-tailed Cuckoo (Cacomantis flabelliformis)

Townsville District, Northeastern Queensland, 27 December 2002

14546 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Fan-tailed Cuckoo](#)].

Nominate race of Australia is paler than other races in New Guinea and Islands of southwest Pacific.

Brush Cuckoo (Cacomantis variolosus)

Resident in most habitats. More common in the lowlands than on the Tableland. Very vocal during the breeding season October-March.



Brush Cuckoo (Cacomantis variolosus dumetorum)

Jourama Falls, NE Queensland, 20 April 2008

65539 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds in northern Australia including northeastern Queensland are slightly smaller than those of the nominate race in southern Australia and are sometimes treated as a separate race *dumetorum* (above). There are perhaps 10 other races in Southeast Asia and New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brush Cuckoo](#)].

Pallid Cuckoo (Cuculus pallidus)

Irregular migrant seen more often on the Tableland than on the coast, May-November.



Pallid Cuckoo (Cuculus pallidus)

Woodstock District, Northeastern Queensland, 13 August 2006

37390 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pallid Cuckoo](#)].

Monotypic.

Oriental Cuckoo (Cuculus optatus)

Uncommon summer or passage migrant, mostly November-April, in woodland, vine thickets, riparian forests and the edge of closed forests in coastal areas and the Tableland.

See: [The Palmetum](#) and [Cairns Central Swamps](#).



Oriental Cuckoo (Cuculus saturatus optatus)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 22 December 2007

61134 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Taxonomy of Oriental Cuckoo is currently under review. IOC and AOC treat it as two species the Himalayan Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus* and the Oriental Cuckoo, *C. Optatus*. Birdlife International and Birdlife Australia treat the two taxa as a single species *C. saturatus* with the Oriental Cuckoo being a subspecies *C. saturatus optatus* of the nominate Himalayan race. Birds migrating to Australia are thought to be mainly the larger eastern taxon *Cuculus (saturatus) optatus* (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Oriental Cuckoo](#)].

Otididae - Bustards

Australian Bustard (Ardeotis australis)

Species of Special Interest. Nomadic, prefers drier areas. Frequently seen on open plains near Townsville such as the [Townsville Common](#), near [Ross Dam](#) and [Toonpan](#). On the Tableland it regularly visits dry areas in winter and is often found on open fields around [Atherton](#), [Lake Tinaroo](#), [Mareeba](#) and [Mary Farms](#).



Australian Bustard (Ardeotis australis)

Townsville Town Common, Northeastern Queensland, 8 November 2009

94494 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Bustard](#)].

Monotypic.

Podargidae - Frogmouths

Links to Species

- [Papuan Frogmouth](#)
- [Tawny Frogmouth](#)

Papuan Frogmouth (Podargus papuensis)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon resident in lowland rainforest, mangroves, gallery forests, and open woodland. More common in the north of the region. Some pairs roost and nest in suburban gardens in Cairns. Often present under street lights at [Paluma](#).

See: [Julatten](#) and [Daintree River](#).



Papuan Frogmouth (Podargus strigoides baileyi)

Kingfisher Park, Julatten, NE Queensland, 24 January 2009

84486 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds in northeastern Queensland south of Cooktown (race *baileyi* above) are smaller and darker than those on Cape York (race *rogersi*). Nominate race occurs in New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway](#); [Papuan Frogmouth](#)].

Tawny Frogmouth (Podargus strigoides)

A breeding resident of eucalypt and melaleuca woodland, wet sclerophyll and rainforest edges. During the day often perches, well camouflaged, in melaleucas.

See: [Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#) and [Granite Gorge](#).



Tawny Frogmouth (Podargus strigoides)

Cape Pallarenda, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 12 November 2004

11336 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland as far north as Cooktown; smaller, paler more delicately marked northern Australian race *phalaenoides* resides on Cape York and in northern Queensland west of the Great Dividing Range.

More photos at [[Birdway: Tawny Frogmouth](#)].

Eurostopodidae - Eared Nightjars

Links to Species

- [Spotted Nightjar](#)
- [White-throated Nightjar](#)

Spotted Nightjar (Eurostopodus argus)

Uncommon visitor to the drier western parts of this region.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).

Monotypic.

White-throated Nightjar (Eurostopodus mystacalis)

Uncommon and irregular on the Tableland. Uncommon passage migrant through the Townsville area, e.g. [Bluewater Forest](#).



White-throated Nightjar (Eurostopodus mystacalis)
Bluewater Forest, NE Queensland, 23 April 2013 153418 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-throated Nightjar](#)].

Monotypic.

Caprimulgidae - Nightjars

Large-tailed Nightjar (Caprimulgus macrurus)

Species of Special Interest. Common in vine-scrubs, mangrove fringes, rainforest and gallery forests of the coastal lowlands. Less common on the Tableland. Listen for the distinctive 'chop, chop' call that begins just before dusk.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Tyto Wetlands](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Broadwater Creek](#).



Large-tailed Nightjar (Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 25 August 2007

58104 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race is found in Java and Bali; race *schlegelii* (above) of Australia and New Guinea has darker upperparts and underparts, less cinnamon in plumage.

More photos at [[Birdway: Large-tailed Nightjar](#)].

Aegothelidae - Owlet-nightjars

Australian Owlet-Nightjar (Aegotheles cristatus)

Probably common but heard more often than seen, in open forests and woodland. Surprisingly absent from many eucalypt areas.

See: [Broadwater Creek](#) and [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Australian Owlet-nightjar (Aegotheles cristatus)

Trafalgar Station, Charters Towers District, Northeastern Queensland, 2 May 2010 100619 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in mainland Australia and southeastern New Guinea, smaller race *tasmanicus* resides in Tasmania.

More photos at [[Birdway: Owlet-Nightjar](#)].

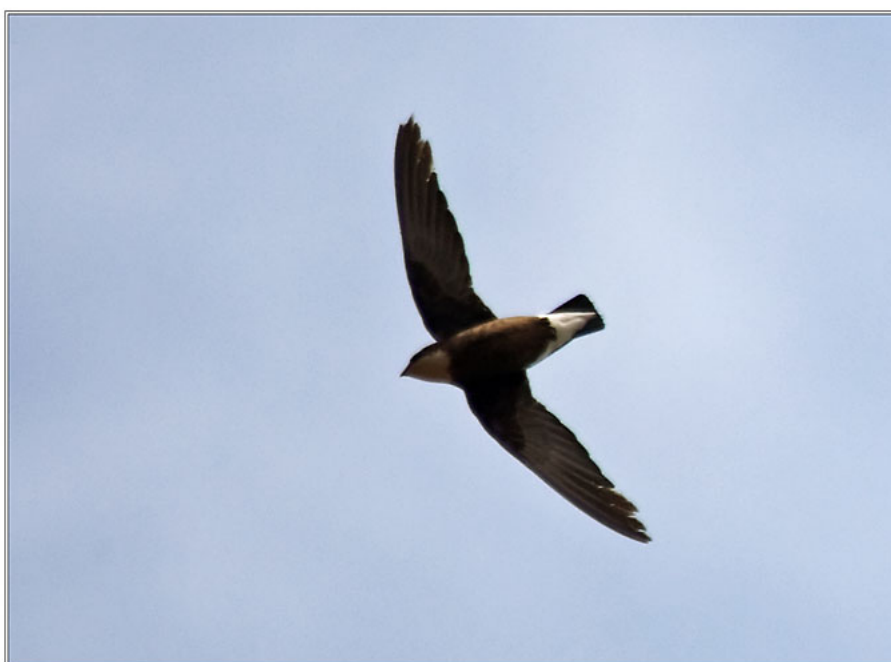
Apodidae - Swifts and Swiftlets

Links to Species

- [White-throated Needletail](#)
- [Australian Swiftlet](#)
- [Fork-tailed Swift](#)

White-throated Needletail (Hirundapus caudacutus)

Common summer migrant over the Tableland. Less common and irregular passage migrant during the wet season over coastal lowlands. Sometimes seen with Fork-tailed Swifts.



White-throated Needletail (Hirundapus caudacutus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 7 November 2009

94465 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-throated Needletail](#)].

Australian Swiftlet (Aerodramus terraereginae)

Species of Special Interest. Very common in the central and wettest part of this region around Tully. Less common in the south except on the [Paluma Range](#) and [Mt Elliot](#). Common over open areas of the Tableland.

See: [Alligator Creek](#), [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Dunk Island](#), [Goldsborough Valley](#) and [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#).



Australian Swiftlet (Aerodramus terraereginae)

Tully Heads, NE Queensland, 14 June 2010

105480 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The population breeding in the Chilagoe region is smaller and paler than the coastal race *terraereginae* and regarded as a different subspecies *chillagoensis* from the nominate one (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Swiftlet](#)].

Fork-tailed Swift (Apus pacificus)

Flocks may pass through the area any time during the wet season, especially in October-November then again in February-March. Movements are often associated with thunderstorms and tropical cyclones. More common over the coastal lowlands.



Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 4 February 2005

13202 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Fork-tailed Swift](#)].

Rallidae - Crakes, Rails and Swampheens

- Red-necked Crake
- Lewin's Rail
- Buff-banded Rail
- Baillon's Crake
- Australian Spotted Crake
- Spotless Crake
- Pale-vented Bush-hen
- White-browed Crake
- Purple Swamphehen
- Dusky Moorhen
- Black-tailed Native-hen
- Eurasian Coot

Red-necked Crake (Rallina tricolor)

Species of Special Interest. Found in rainforest, vine-thicket and even in Cairns suburban gardens and parks, usually in the vicinity of a stream or pool. Seen regularly at [Cassowary House near Kuranda](#) and [Kingfisher Park in Jullatten](#).



Red-necked Crake (Rallina tricolor)

Kingfisher Park, Jullatten, Northeastern Queensland, 3 February 2012

129255 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

See also: [Lacey Creek](#) near Mission Beach, [Johnstone River Crocodile Farm](#) near Innisfail, [Wongabel State Forest](#).

More photos at [[Birdway](#); [Red-necked Crake](#)].

Monotypic.

Lewin's Rail (Lewinia pectoralis)

Rarely seen - perhaps because of skulking habits.

Buff-banded Rail (Hypotaenidia philippensis)

Common resident in wet grassland. Often seen on roadsides, especially on the [Tableland](#).



Buff-banded Rail (Gallirallus philippensis mellori)

Ross River, Townsville, NE Queensland, 11 October 2011

121542 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Populations on islands of the Great Barrier Reef sometimes assigned to different race *tounelieri* rather than mainland race *mellori* (above) but individuals are variable and differences slight.

More photos at [[Birdway: Buff-banded Rail](#)].

Australian Spotted Crake (Porzana fluminea)

Very few records from Ingham, Townsville.



Australian Spotted Crake (Porzana fluminea)

Ocean Grove, Victoria, 30 January 2002

09107 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Spotted Crake](#)].

Monotypic.

Baillon's Crake (Zapornia pusilla)

Uncommon along the edges of reed beds in freshwater swamps. Possibly nomadic or migratory.



Baillon's Crake (Porzana pusilla palustris)

Pentland, NE Queensland, 25 June 2011

116822 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *palustris* (above) of Australia and New Guinea is small with paler grey underparts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Baillon's Crake](#)].

Spotless Crake (Zapornia tabuensis)

Very few records, mostly from Atherton Tableland. Recorded on [Ross River](#) in 2011.



Spotless Crake (Porzana tabuensis)

Ross River, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 11 October 2011

121555 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Population occurring in Australia and New Zealand sometimes treated as separate race *plumbea* from nominate race of the Philippines and islands of the South Pacific.

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotless Crake](#)].

Pale-vented Bush-hen (Amaurornis moluccana)

Species of Special Interest. Secretive but heard during the breeding season during the Wet. Seen beside roads at all altitudes where long grass grows, and in dense vegetation near fresh water. Try [Freshwater Creek](#) in Cairns, the [Daintree](#) area and [Rose Gums](#). In Townsville it has been recorded in the Bush Garden on [Ross River](#).



Pale-vented Bush-hen (Amaurornis moluccana ruficrissa)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 19 February 2009

84901 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *ruficrissa* (above) of Australia and southern New Guinea has reddish base to culmen (fades outside breeding season) and rufous undertail coverts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pale-vented Bush-hen](#)].

White-browed Crake (Amaurornis cinerea)

Species of Special Interest. A common but secretive resident of reedy swamps. Try [Centenary Lakes](#) in Cairns, [Ross River](#) near the Bush Garden and [Anderson Park](#) in Townsville and [Tyto Wetlands](#) in Ingham.

See also: [Mt Molloy](#).



White-browed Crake (Porzana cinerea)

Tyto Wetlands, Ingham, Northeastern Queensland, Australia 19 April 2008

65478 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-browed Crake](#)].

Monotypic.

Purple Swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio)

Common resident near lagoons and swamps and sometimes cane fields. Numbers fluctuate, as it disperses widely during the wet season.

See: [Magnetic Island](#).



Purple Swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus)

Cairns, NE Queensland, 11 August 2002

02026 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Large race *melanotus* (above) of eastern and northern Australia has purplish-blue throat and breast; southwestern Australian race *bellus* has sky-blue throat and breast.

More photos at [[Birdway: Purple Swamphen](#)].

Dusky Moorhen (Gallinula tenebrosa)

Found in small numbers on freshwater lagoons and swamps.

See [Magnetic Island](#) and [Lake Barrine](#).



Dusky Moorhen (Gallinula tenebrosa)

Clermont, Central Queensland, 3 November 2008

81383 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of Australia (above) is larger and paler than the two races of New Guinea and eastern Indonesia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Dusky Moorhen](#)].

Black-tailed Native-hen (Tribonyx ventralis)

Few records from Townsville and Ingham during the dry season.



Black-tailed Native-hen (Tribonyx ventralis)

Bowra, Southwestern Queensland, 4 November 2008

81677 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-tailed Native-hen](#)].

Monotypic.

Eurasian Coot (Fulica atra)

Nomadic, so numbers fluctuate. Often numerous on [Tinaroo](#) and [Ross River Dams](#).



Eurasian Coot (Fulica atra australis)

Blue Waters Lake, Victoria, 18 February 2001

00189 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *australis* of Australia and New Zealand (above) is larger than nominate race of Eurasia and lacks white on tips of secondaries.

More photos at [[Birdway: Eurasian Coot](#)].

Gruidae - Cranes

Links to Species

- [Sarus Crane](#)
- [Brolga](#)

Sarus Crane (Grus antigone)

Species of Special Interest. First recorded on the Atherton Tableland in 1967, though it may have been there for years before then. It arrives from the Gulf in May/June and usually leaves by November. It prefers the high rainfall area of the Tablelands and feeds on grassland and paddocks, especially after maize crops have been harvested.

Look for birds along the Malanda-Atherton Road and along the road joining it to Yungaburra before Curtain Fig National Park - see the map of the [Gordonvale to Atherton](#) route. At night it roosts in large numbers at [Bromfield Swamp](#) and other wetland areas.



Sarus Crane (Grus antigone gilliae)

Atherton Tableland, NE Queensland, 15 September 2013

155390 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *gilliae* (above) is smaller than the otherwise similar Southeast Asian race *sharpii*; both lack the white collar and white tertials of the nominate race of Northern India.

More photos at [[Birdway: Sarus Crane](#)].

Brolga (Grus rubicunda)

Species of Special Interest. Widely dispersed throughout northern Queensland in the Wet, but in the dry season moves to the Tableland and coastal areas e.g. the Townsville- Burdekin Wetlands. Particularly numerous on [Townsville Common](#) and the [Cromarty](#) wetlands where it breeds. Also found along [Morris Creek Road](#) and at [The Orient](#). Although it does occur in wetter areas - with up to 200 at [Bromfield Swamp](#) and a few at [Hasties Swamp](#) - it outnumbers the Sarus Crane in the lower rainfall areas such as [Mareeba](#). This is particularly so in [Kaban](#), Ravenshoe and Mt Garnet, where the Sarus Crane is scarce.



Brolga (Grus rubicunda)

Townsville Town Common, Northeastern Queensland, 29 January 2008

62780 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Brolga](#)].

Monotypic.

Note: The annual Crane Count is held in September. Visitors are welcome to participate. For details see [<http://ozcranes.net/info/news.html#diary>] and [<http://birdlifeq.org>].

Burhinidae - Stone-curlews

Links to Species

- [Bush Stone-curlew](#)
- [Beach Stone-curlew](#)

Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*)

Species of Special Interest. Resident in most areas except rainforest; possibly more numerous near the coast. Seen in pairs or small family groups when breeding, August-January, but form large flocks of up to 40 or more in the non-breeding season. The [cemetery in Cairns](#) and the campus of [James Cook University](#) in Townsville have resident populations. Particularly common on [Magnetic Island](#).



*Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*)*

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 5 November 2009

94414 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Bush Stone-Curlew](#)].

Monotypic.

Beach Stone-curlew (*Esacus magnirostris*)

Species of Special Interest. Pairs scarce on rarely disturbed beaches of the mainland and islands such as [Hinchinbrook](#).

See also: [Bowen](#), [Lucinda Point](#), the [Kennedy Track](#), [Dunk Island](#), [Etty Bay](#), [Coquette Point](#), [Flying Fish Point](#), [Bramston Beach](#), [Yule Point](#), [Low Isles](#) and [Wonga Beach](#).



Beach Stone-Curlew (Esacus magnirostris)

Etty Bay, NE Queensland, 14 November 2016

180228 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Beach Stone-Curlew](#)].

Monotypic.

Haematopodidae - Oystercatchers

Links to Species

- [Australian Pied Oystercatcher](#)
- [Sooty Oystercatcher](#)

Australian Pied Oystercatcher (Haematopus longirostris)

Fairly common along the coast from Townsville south, on sandy beaches, mudflats and shores of small islands. Rare north of Ingham. See [Lucinda Point](#).



Australian Pied Oystercatcher (Haematopus longirostris)

Toomulla Beach, Northeastern Queensland, 26 August 2007

58189 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Pied Oystercatcher](#)].

Monotypic.

Sooty Oystercatcher (Haematopus fuliginosus)

Prefers exposed reefs and rocky shores, particularly on islands. See [Bowen](#).



Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus ophthalmicus*)

Toolakea Beach, NE Queensland, 1 December 2014

163450 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern Australian race *ophthalmicus* (above) has shorter wings, shorter stubbier bill than nominate race of southern Australia (below) and orange rather than red eye-ring.



Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus fuliginosus*)

Kurnell, New South Wales, 30 March 2009

85476 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Sooty Oystercatcher](#)].

Recurvirostridae - Stilts and Avocets

Links to Species

- [Red-necked Avocet](#)
- [Pied Stilt](#)

Red-necked Avocet (Recurvirostra novaehollandiae)

Nomadic. Occasionally visits the [Giru](#) area and Mullers Lagoon in [Bowen](#), from June-November after years of good rainfall in inland Australia. Very rarely seen on the Tableland.



Red-necked Avocet (Recurvirostra novaehollandiae)

Rottneest Island, Western Australia, 8 September 2006

41037 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-necked Stilt](#)].

Monotypic.

Pied Stilt (Himantopus leucocephalus)

Also called White-headed Stilt when the Australasian race is treated as a separate species. Pairs and small flocks found on shallow lagoons, swamps and tidal flats.

See: [Townsville Common](#).



Pied Stilt (Himantopus leucocephalus)

Bowra, Cunnamulla, SW Queensland, 13 April 2013

153138 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The Pied Stilt of Australasia is treated as either a race (*leucocephalus*) of the Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* or as a separate species.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Stilt](#)].

Charadriidae - Plovers, Dotterel and Lapwings

Links to Species

- [Grey Plover](#)
- [Pacific Golden Plover](#)
- [Little Ringed Plover](#)
- [Red-capped Plover](#)
- [Double-banded Plover](#)
- [Lesser Sand Plover](#)
- [Greater Sand Plover](#)
- [Oriental Plover](#)
- [Black-fronted Dotterel](#)
- [Banded Lapwing](#)
- [Masked Lapwing](#)
- [Red-kneed Dotterel](#)

Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)

Uncommon summer migrant on mudflats. Visits the [Cairns mudflats](#) most years. Regular at [Cungulla](#) south of Townsville.



Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)

Bolsa Chica, California, USA, 3 July 2008

79915 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Plover](#)].

Monotypic.

Pacific Golden Plover (Pluvialis fulva)

Common summer migrant to intertidal areas, wetlands and inland swamps, e.g. [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Pacific Golden Plover (Pluvialis fulva)

Airlie Beach, Eastern Queensland, 24 October 2003

02977 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pacific Golden Plover](#)].

Monotypic.

Little Ringed Plover (Charadrius dubius)

Rare vagrant. Blakeys Crossing (see map in [About Townsville](#)) 1985, [Lake Tinaroo](#) 1995-6.



Little Ringed Plover (Charadrius dubius curonicus)

Darwin, Northern Territory, 3 September 2004

09058 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Vagrants to Australia are mostly of the migratory Eurasian race *curonicus* which has markedly different non-breeding plumage with black facial and breast markings replaced by brown (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Ringed Plover](#)].

Red-capped Plover (Charadrius ruficapillus)

Breeding species, common on sandy beaches and salt flats, (especially in quieter areas), all year, e.g. [Lucinda Point](#).



Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

Toolakea Beach, Northeastern Queensland, 27 July 2005

18167 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-capped Plover](#)].

Monotypic.

Double-banded Plover (Charadrius bicinctus)

Rare vagrant to [Cairns Esplanade](#), [Townsville Common](#) and [Alva Beach near Ayr](#).



Double-banded Plover (Charadrius bicinctus)

Enderby Island, Auckland Islands, New Zealand, 21 November 2011

124394 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Double-banded Plover](#)].

Nominate race migrates to Australia from New Zealand in winter.

Lesser Sand Plover (Charadrius mongolus)

Also called Mongolian Plover. Common summer migrant to coasts. Very numerous on passage, September- October and March-April, when many birds are in full or partial breeding plumage.

See: [Bushland Beach](#), [Lucinda Point](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Lesser Sand Plover (Charadrius mongolus stegmanni)

Cairns Esplanade, NE Queensland, 30 March 2008

64851 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The two eastern Asian races, nominate and *stegmanni*, migrate to Australia in the northern winter. These have longer wings, shorter bill and tarsi than other races (e.g. *atrifrons*) but are hard to distinguish except in breeding plumage when both have a white rather than black forehead, bisected in *stegmanni* with a vertical black line (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Lesser Sand Plover](#)].

Greater Sand Plover (Charadrius leschenaultii)

Usually a few with the [Lesser Sand Plovers](#), and like them, often in breeding plumage on passage. See [Lucinda Point](#).



Greater Sand Plover (Charadrius leschenaultii)

Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsula, Northern Queensland, 30 November 2009 97294 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds spending northern winter in Australia belong to the nominate race of eastern Asia (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Greater Sand Plover](#)].

Oriental Plover (Charadrius veredus)

Scarce annual visitor to grassy plains, airstrips and mudflats.



Oriental Plover (Charadrius veredus)

Lake Moondarra, NW Queensland, 29 November 2015

rw04046 © Rex Whitehead birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Oriental Plover](#)].

Monotypic.

Black-fronted Dotterel (Elseyaornis melanops)

Found on the muddy margins of most dams, swamps and lagoons all year.



Black-fronted Dotterel (Elseyaornis melanops)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 12 July 2011

117085 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-fronted Dotterel](#)].

Monotypic.

Banded Lapwing (Vanellus tricolor)

Nomadic. Rare visitor, mostly to the drier parts of this area.



Banded Lapwing (Vanellus tricolor)

Toonpan District, Northeastern Queensland, 1 August 2010

106194 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Banded Lapwing](#)].

Monotypic.

Masked Lapwing (Vanellus miles)

Common resident of urban parks, grassland, swamps and intertidal areas throughout the region.

See also: [Townsville Common](#) and [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Masked Lapwing (Vanellus miles miles)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 12 July 2011

117092 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Most birds in northeastern Queensland are of the northern nominate race (above) which has longer facial wattles and completely white collar, but in the south of the area some are of the southern race *novaehollandiae* (below) with smaller wattles and black of crown continuing down side of neck.

Hybrids also seen, especially around [Townsville](#). The bird in the first photo, is not quite pure nominate race, as it shows a faint trace of black along the side of the neck.



Masked Lapwing (Vanellus miles novaehollandiae)

Balmain, New South Wales, 3 April 2007

47908 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Masked Lapwing](#)].

Red-kneed Dotterel (Erythrogonys cinctus)

Occasionally seen singly or in small groups on the muddy edges of drying wetlands. Numbers may reflect inland conditions.



Red-kneed Dotterel (Erythrogonys cinctus)

Werribee, Victoria, 4 August 2001

42300 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-kneed Dotterel](#)].

Monotypic.

Rostratulidae - Painted Snipe

Australian Painted-snipe (Rostratula australis)

Nomadic. Rare in tall reeds and grasses near shallow freshwater swamps and lagoons. Has been recorded near [Mt Carbine](#), [Lake Mitchell](#), [Lake Tinaroo](#) and [Ross River](#).



Australian Painted-snipe (Rostratula australis)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 18 November 2008

83394 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Painted-snipe](#)].

Monotypic; used to be treated as race *australis* of Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*.

Jacanidae - Jacanas

Comb-crested Jacana (Irediparra gallinacea)

Species of Special Interest. Resident on permanent lagoons, swamps, rivers and dams with floating vegetation.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Ross River](#), [Centenary Lakes](#) and [Cattana Wetlands](#).



Comb-crested Jacana (Irediparra gallinacea novaehollandiae)

Ross River, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 31 March 2012

141625 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *novaehollandiae* of Australia and southern New Guinea (above) is larger and has paler upperparts than nominate race of Southeast Asia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Comb-crested Jacana](#)].

Scolopacidae - Snipes, Sandpipers, Godwits, Curlew, Stints and Phalaropes

Links to Species

- [Whimbrel](#)
- [Little Curlew](#)
- [Eastern Curlew](#)
- [Bar-tailed Godwit](#)
- [Black-tailed Godwit](#)
- [Ruddy Turnstone](#)
- [Great Knot](#)
- [Red Knot](#)
- [Ruff](#)
- [Broad-billed Sandpiper](#)
- [Sharp-tailed Sandpiper](#)
- [Curlew Sandpiper](#)
- [Long-toed Stint](#)
- [Red-necked Stint](#)
- [Sanderling](#)
- [Dunlin](#)
- [Pectoral Sandpiper](#)
- [Asian Dowitcher](#)
- [Latham's Snipe](#)
- [Swinhoe's Snipe](#)
- [Terek Sandpiper](#)
- [Common Sandpiper](#)
- [Grey-tailed Tattler](#)
- [Wandering Tattler](#)
- [Common Greenshank](#)
- [Common Redshank](#)
- [Wood Sandpiper](#)
- [Marsh Sandpiper](#)

Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)

A common summer migrant, with some present all year, on sand flats, mudflats and beaches.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus variegatus)

Cairns, NE Queensland, 30 March 2008

64687 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The Siberian race *variegatus* (above) migrates to Australia and has brown underwings (below). The nominate western Eurasian race has white underwings.



Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus variegatus)

Karumba, NW Queensland, 29 September 2009

94136 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [\[Birdway: Whimbrel\]](#).

Little Curlew (Numenius minutus)

Species of Special Interest. Scarce vagrant to short grasslands and tidal mudflats in summer. Check the aerodrome at [Innisfail](#).

See also: [Edmonton](#).



Little Curlew (Numenius minutus)

Mt Isa District, NW Queensland

rw3182 © Rex Whitehead birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Curlew](#)].

Monotypic.

Eastern Curlew (Numenius madagascariensis)

Summer migrant but some over-winter on mudflats, especially near mangroves, and sand flats.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Eastern Curlew (Numenius madagascariensis)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113884 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Curlew](#)].

Monotypic.

Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)

Common summer migrant on beaches, sand and mudflats, with a few on freshwater swamps. Some over-winter.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica baueri)

Cairns, NE Queensland, 26 January 2009

84763 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds migrating to eastern Australia (above) belong to the Alaskan race *baueri*; those migrating to Western Australia belong to the Siberian race *menzbieri*. The longer-winged race *baueri* has heavily barred lower back and rump as in photo below (both white in nominate race of western Eurasia); *menzbieri* is intermediate in plumage between *baueri* and the nominate race.



Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica baueri)

Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, 13 May 2013

154116 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Bar-tailed Godwit](#)].

Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)

Regular summer migrant to intertidal areas, with a few on freshwater swamps but not as numerous as [Bar-tailed Godwits](#).

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa melanuroides)

Cleveland Bay, Townsville, NE Queensland, 19 Sept 2007 58901 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds migrating to Australia are of the smaller isolated eastern Asian race *melanuroides* (above), darker in both breeding and non-breeding plumages, and shorter-billed than nominate race of western Eurasia (below).



Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)

Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ireland, 5 January 1009

84121 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-tailed Godwit](#)].

Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)

Small numbers along the coast, e.g. [Balgai Beach](#) and [Cairns Esplanade](#), on islands and on sand cays of the Great Barrier Reef such as the [Low Isles](#).



Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)

Willis Island, Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 15 December 2006

45862 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Larger nominate race (above) migrates to Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Ruddy Turnstone](#)].

Great Knot (Calidris tenuirostris)

Summer migrant to tidal mudflats, often in flocks of several hundred.

See: [Bushland Beach](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Great Knot (Calidris tenuirostris)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113403 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Great Knot](#)].

Monotypic.

Red Knot (Calidris canutus)

Summer migrant, rare north of Townsville. Sometimes a few mixed with flocks of [Great Knots](#). Getting rarer as a result of mudflat reclamation along the East Australasian Flyway in China and Korea.



Red Knot (Calidris canutus)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 30 March 2008

64921 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Both the far-eastern Siberian races *rogersi* and *piersmai* migrate to Australia. In non-breeding plumage these races are indistinguishable, but are paler below and have more white on belly than nominate race *canutus*. Races *rogersi* and *piersmai* can be separated from each other only in breeding plumage when *rogersi* has pale peach underparts and white nape while *piersmai* has brick-red underparts and black nape.

More photos at [[Birdway Red Knot](#)].

Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)

Rare vagrant to Cairns, [Hasties Swamp](#) and [Ross River](#) mouth.



Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India, 28 April 2003

19948 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Ruff](#)].

Monotypic.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (Limicola falcinellus)

Summer migrant, rare in most places but regularly seen at [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus sibirica*)

Broome, NW Western Australia, 6 September 2004

40224 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Eastern Siberian race *sibirica* migrates to Australia. It has wider lower supercilium and narrower upper supercilium than nominate western Eurasian race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Broad-billed Sandpiper](#)].

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Calidris acuminata)

An abundant widespread summer migrant to mudflats, e.g. [Cairns Esplanade](#), and freshwater swamps. Some over-winter.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Calidris acuminata)

Edithvale Wetlands, Victoria, 10 February 2002

09587 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea)

Regular summer migrant to fresh and saltwater mudflats, e.g. [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113613 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway Curlew Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Long-toed Stint (Calidris subminuta)

Rare vagrant to [Cairns Esplanade](#). More likely to be found inland near freshwater.



Long-toed Stint (Calidris subminuta)

Lake Moondarra, NW Queensland, 25 October 2016

rw9711 © Rex Whitehead birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Long-toed Stint](#)].

Monotypic.

Red-necked Stint (Calidris ruficollis)

Common summer migrant to both fresh and saline mudflats. A few over-winter.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Red-necked Stint (Calidris ruficollis)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 30 March 2008

64894 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-necked Stint](#)].

Monotypic.

Sanderling (Calidris alba)

Uncommon summer migrant to sandy beaches.

See: [Coquette Point](#).



Sanderling (Calidris alba)

Alderney, Channel Islands, 14 September 2005

20480 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Sanderling](#)].

Monotypic.

Dunlin (Calidris alpina)

Only records: Cairns 1985 and Cape Bowling Green 1999.



Dunlin (Calidris alpina)

Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim, Ireland, 23 May 2007

53493 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Dunlin](#)].

Races of Australian vagrants not known.

Pectoral Sandpiper (Calidris melanotos)

Very rare summer migrant to freshwater coastal swamps. Single birds have been seen some years at the [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Pectoral Sandpiper (Calidris melanotos)

Slaughter Bay, Norfolk Island, 17 March 2012

141561 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

More photos at [[Birdway: Pectoral Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Asian Dowitcher (Limnodromus semipalmatus)

Single birds among flocks of godwits, seen on the [Cairns Esplanade](#) most summers.



Asian Dowitcher (Limnodromus semipalmatus)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113837 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Asian Dowitcher](#)].

Monotypic.

Latham's Snipe (Gallinago hardwickii)

Regular passage migrant seen in grassy wetlands, especially on the Tableland, e.g. [Hasties Swamp](#), mostly during September-October and March-April.



Latham's Snipe (Gallinago hardwickii)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 27 February 2003

15867 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Latham's Snipe](#)].

Monotypic.

Swinhoe's Snipe (Gallinago megala)

Very difficult to distinguish from [Latham's Snipe](#) in the field. There are unconfirmed records from [Hasties Swamp](#) and [Lake Tinaroo](#).



Possible Swinhoe's Snipe (Gallinago megala)

Lake Tinaroo, Northeastern Queensland, 3 March 2009

84964 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Swinhoe's Snipe](#)].

Monotypic.

Terek Sandpiper (Xenus cinereus)

Summer visitor to tidal mudflats. Common on the [Cairns Esplanade](#). See also [Lucinda Point](#).



Terek Sandpiper (Xenus cinereus)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113803 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Terek Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)

Usually singly along mangrove creeks and sheltered shallow waters during summer.

See: [Centenary Lakes](#).



Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)

Darwin, Northern Territory, 3 September 2004

09063 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Grey-tailed Tattler (Tringa brevipes)

One of the commoner summer migrants on tidal reef, mud and sand flats. Small numbers over-winter.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Lucinda Point](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Grey-tailed Tattler (Tringa brevipes)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113539 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Grey-tailed Tattler](#)].

Monotypic.

Wandering Tattler (Tringa incanus)

Species of Special Interest. Very scarce on the mainland but is the usual tattler found on offshore reefs and coral cays. Usually only found on rocky shores.

Mainland sites include: [Etty Bay](#) and [Bowen](#).



Wandering Tattler (Tringa incanus)

Townsville Port, Northeastern Queensland, 13 March 2008

63915 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Wandering Tattler](#)].

Monotypic.

Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)

One of the more widespread waders, found on intertidal areas and shallow freshwater pools near the coast but occasionally inland.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)

Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ireland, 5 January 2009

84240 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Greenshank](#)].

Monotypic.

Common Redshank (Tringa totanus)

Rare vagrant to [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Common Redshank (Tringa totanus)

Carlingford, Co. Louth, Ireland, 16 September 2012

140648 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The geographically most likely race vagrant to Australia is the Manchurian race *terrignotae* but the races of Common Redshank vary only slightly in plumage and size.

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Redshank](#)].

Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola)

Uncommon summer visitor to shallow fresh waters and their muddy margins.



Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola)

Birdsville, Southwestern Queensland, 19 September 2006

42326 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Wood Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Marsh Sandpiper (Tringa stagnatilis)

Moderately common in summer on shallow fresh waters such as the wetlands beside the road to AIMS as shown on the [map of Bowen to Townsville](#), [Jerona Road](#), [Hasties Swamp](#), and [Lake Mitchell](#). Less frequent on tidal mudflats.



Marsh Sandpiper (Tringa stagnatilis)

Werribee, Victoria, 8 December 2001

08066 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Marsh Sandpiper](#)].

Monotypic.

Turnicidae - Button-quail

Links to Species

- [Red-backed Button-quail](#)
- [Painted Button-quail](#)
- [Buff-breasted Button-quail](#)
- [Red-Chested Button-quail](#)
- [Little Button-quail](#)

Red-backed Button-quail (Turnix maculosus)

Widespread in grassland and pastures. Not easily flushed but booming call often heard.

Australian race *melanotus*.

Painted Button-quail (Turnix varius)

Uncommon resident of grassland and wet sclerophyll particularly on the western edge of the Great Dividing Range. Try the [Kaban Area](#) and [Davies Creek](#), where [Buff-breasted Button-quail](#) has also been seen.



Painted Button-quail (Turnix varius)

Mitchell Park, New South Wales, 1 April 2007

47736 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Greyer nominate race (above) occurs on mainland Australia and in Tasmania. Race *scintillans* is confined to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands in Western Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Painted Button-quail](#)].

Buff-breasted Button-quail (Turnix olivii)

Rare and perhaps endangered. Records from [Mt Molloy](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).

Monotypic.

Red-Chested Button-quail (Turnix pyrrhothorax)

Irregular visitor to grassland and pastures.

Monotypic.

Little Button-quail (Turnix velox)

Nomadic. Few records.

See [Moorrinya National Park](#).

Monotypic.

Glareolidae - Pratincoles

Links to Species

- [Australian Pratincole](#)
- [Oriental Pratincole](#)

Australian Pratincole (Stiltia isabella)

Regular visitor in flocks of 100 or more to drier areas of the Tableland, such as the area between Atherton and [Lake Tinaroo](#), from May to December. In smaller numbers elsewhere.

See also [Hodel Road](#) between Ayr and Townsville and [The Orient](#) between Townsville and Ingham..



Australian Pratincole (Stiltia isabella)

Windorah, Southwestern Queensland, 21 September 2006

42487 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Pratincole](#)].

Monotypic.

Oriental Pratincole (Glareola maldivarum)

Irregular summer visitor to grasslands, more likely on the Tableland than the coast. Has been recorded at [Townsville Common](#).



Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)

Townsville Town Common, Northeastern Queensland, 28 November 2006

44445 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Oriental Pratincole](#)].

Monotypic.

Laridae - Gulls, Terns and Noddies

Links to Species

- [Common Noddy](#)
- [Black Noddy](#)
- [White Tern](#)
- [Silver Gull](#)
- [Laughing Gull](#)
- [Franklin's Gull](#)
- [Black-tailed Gull](#)
- [Kelp Gull](#)
- [Sooty Tern](#)
- [Bridled Tern](#)
- [Little Tern](#)
- [Fairy Tern](#)
- [Common Gull-billed Tern](#)
- [Australian Gull-billed Tern](#)
- [Caspian Tern](#)
- [Whiskered Tern](#)
- [White-winged Black Tern](#)
- [Roseate Tern](#)
- [Black-naped Tern](#)
- [Common Tern](#)
- [Lesser Crested Tern](#)
- [Crested Tern](#)

Common Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)

Species of Special Interest. Breeds in large numbers on [Michaelmas Cay](#).



Common Noddy (Anous stolidus pileatus)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 13 December 2006

45125 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Circumtropical. Indo-Pacific race *pileatus* (above) has bluish-grey rather than white forehead and crown. Nominate race occurs in Caribbean and South Atlantic.

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Noddy](#)].

Black Noddy (Anous minutus)

More common south and north of this area but occasionally seen in Barrier Reef waters. Check among the flocks of [Common Noddies](#) on [Michaelmas Cay](#).



Black Noddy (Anous minutus)

Willis Island, Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 15 December 2006

45702 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia and New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black Noddy](#)].

White Tern (Gygis alba)

Few records of exhausted birds, usually after cyclones.



White Tern (Gygis alba candida)

Captain Cook's Lookout, Norfolk Island, Australia, 11 March 2012

140515 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Circumtropical. Indo-South-Pacific race *candida* (above) has upwardly-angled black bill with greyish base rather than all black, slightly up-curved bill. Nominate race occurs in South Atlantic.

More photos at [[Birdway: White Tern](#)].

Silver Gull (Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae)

Generally uncommon along the coast except at major cities, [Townsville](#) and [Cairns](#). Also seen on low islands and cays inhabited by nesting terns and boobies.



Silver Gull (Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae)

Ross River, Townsville, 11 September 2007

58837 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race in Australia (above) is slightly smaller than *forsteri* in New Caledonia. More photos at [[Birdway: Silver Gull](#)].

Laughing Gull (Larus atricilla)

Three records: Cairns 1987 and 2007, Palm Cove 2009.



Laughing Gull (Leucophaeus atricilla megalopterus)

Palm Cove, Cairns District, NE Queensland, 24 January 2009

84379 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race resides in the West Indies; vagrants to Australia belong to the mainly North American race *megalopterus* (above: first winter juvenile) which occurs on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts and has more black in primaries than nominate race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Laughing Gull](#)].

Franklin's Gull (Larus pipixcan)

Very rare vagrant to the area.

Monotypic.

Black-tailed Gull (Larus crassirostris)

One record Townsville 2004.



Black-tailed Gull (Larus crassirostris)

Ross River, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 26 April 2004

06970 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-tailed Gull](#)].

Monotypic.

Kelp Gull (Larus dominicanus)

Rare vagrant. Several records at Cairns, Townsville and Michaelmas Cay.



Kelp Gull (Larus dominicanus)

Enderby Island, Auckland Islands, New Zealand, 21 November 2011

124795 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic, though southern African birds have mottled brown irises and are sometimes treated as a separate race (*vetula*).

More photos at [[Birdway: Kelp Gull](#)].

Sooty Tern (Onychoprion fuscata)

Species of Special Interest. Very common on or near their breeding grounds e.g. [Michaelmas Cay](#) where it breeds in vast numbers. Seldom near the mainland except after tropical cyclones, January-March.



Sooty Tern (Onychoprion fuscatus serratus)

Wallis Island, Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 15 December 2006

45783 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Circumtropical. Race *serratus* (*above*) occurs in Australasia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Sooty Tern](#)].

Bridled Tern (Onychoprion anaethetus)

Species of Special Interest. Seen around continental islands e.g. [Dunk](#), the Family Islands - shown on the [map of Ingham to Tully](#) - and the Palm Islands, between Townsville and Ingham. Occasionally seen from mainland beaches.

See also: [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Bridled Tern (Onychoprion anaethetus)

One Tree Island, Capricorn Group, Eastern Queensland, 17 February 1996

© Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Circumtropical. Western Pacific nominate race occurs in Australia (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Bridled Tern](#)].

Little Tern (Sternula albifrons)

Uncommon, seen most often September-November and during rough weather when it shelter in harbours and estuaries. Breeds on mainland beaches, often unsuccessfully because of disturbance. May be present at [Lucinda Point](#), the [Cairns Esplanade](#) and the Townsville harbour breakwater.



Little Tern (Sternula albifrons sinensis)

Big Crystal Creek, NE Queensland, 26 October 2004

40636 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

During the southern summer, both locally breeding birds in summer plumage and non-breeding migrants from eastern Asia may be present. All belong to the western Pacific race *sinensis*, distinguished from the western Eurasian nominate race by the three outer primaries having white rather than brownish shafts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Tern](#)].

Fairy Tern (Sternula nereis)

Vagrant. Several records at [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Fairy Tern (Sternula nereis)

Queenscliff, Victoria, 11 February 2001

© Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Vagrants to northeastern Queensland and the Barrier Reef are thought to belong to the New Caledonian race *exsul* which may also nest on one or two islands in the Coral Sea. In breeding plumage this race has an almost completely black bill and a larger black loreal patch. Nominate race shown above.

More photos at [[Birdway: Fairy Tern](#)].

Common Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica)

The smaller Asian race, *affinis*, of the Common Gull-billed Tern may be present in small numbers on the coastal mudflats during the Wet in non-breeding plumage. Apart from its much smaller size, it is distinguished from non-breeding individuals of the [Australian Gull-billed Tern](#) *Geochelidon macrotarsa* by straighter bill, much less black behind the eye, white eyebrows and slightly darker upper parts.

Australian Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon macrotarsa)

Moderately common along the coast during the dry season, on estuaries, dams, freshwater swamps and ploughed fields. See [Lucinda Point](#) and [Redden Island](#). Rare on the Tableland.



Australian Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon macrotarsa)

Saunders Beach, NE Queensland, 4 August 2012

130240 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Non-breeding Australian Gull-billed Tern (below) may be distinguished from the Asian race *affinis* of the Common Gull-billed Tern by more down-curved bill, larger size and more black behind the eye.



Non-breeding Australian Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon macrotarsa)

Lucinda, NE Queensland, 14 July 2011

120028 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Gull-billed Tern](#)].

Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia)

Uncommon to moderately common along the coast; during rough weather it may shelter in estuaries and salt flats. Also seen inland on dams, freshwater swamps and lakes. See [Lucinda Point](#).



Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia)

Cairns, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2010

113879 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Caspian Tern](#)].

Monotypic.

Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias hybridus)

Moderately common but irregular, on open fresh waters and rarely on sheltered tidal areas.



Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias hybridus javanicus)

Werribee, Victoria, 8 December 2001

08052 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *javanicus* (above) is paler than nominate race of western Eurasia.
More photos at [[Birdway: Whiskered Tern](#)].

White-winged Black Tern (Chlidonias leucopterus)

Visitor early October to May. Generally uncommon on sheltered estuaries and near-coastal freshwater lagoons. Many in good breeding plumage by late March e.g. along [Hodel Road](#).



White-winged Black Tern (Chlidonias leucopterus)

Morris Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 22 April 2010

100041 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-winged Black Tern](#)].

Monotypic.

Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon on the coast but breeds on offshore islands. Look carefully among the terns on the beach at [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii)

Co. Wexford, Ireland, 11 June 2007

54724 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australasian race *gracilis* is longer-billed and shorter-winged than nominate race (above) of the Atlantic and western Indian Oceans.

More photos at [[Birdway: Roseate Tern](#)].

Black-naped Tern (Sterna sumatrana)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommonly seen roosting with other terns on the coastal beaches. More likely on coral cays where it breeds, than on the coast. Often seen at sea on reef trips.

See [Michaelmas Cay](#) and the [Low Isles](#).



Black-naped Tern (Sterna sumatrana)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, NE Australia, 13 December 2006

44984 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of the western Pacific and eastern Indian Oceans (above) is longer-winged and shorter-billed than *mathewsi* of the western Indian Ocean.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-naped Tern](#)].

Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)

Uncommon summer visitor to estuaries and continental islands. Large flocks have been seen at Cape Bowling Green, shown on the [map of Bowen To Townsville](#) and [Lucinda Point](#).



Common Tern (Sterna hirundo longipennis)

Lennox Head, New South Wales, 8 January 2010

98272 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Eastern Asian race *longipennis* (above) migrates to Southeast Asia and Australia during northern winter. In breeding plumage distinctive with black rather than red bill and brownish-black rather than red legs. Non-breeding birds are more difficult to separate as other races then also have black bills and darker legs.

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Tern](#)].

Lesser Crested Tern (Thalasseus bengalensis)

Species of Special Interest. Often a few with other terns, usually on sandy or coral beaches, e.g. [Lucinda Point](#), especially on islands such as [Michaelmas Cay](#).



Lesser Crested Tern (Thalasseus bengalensis torresii)

Broome, NW Western Australia, 4 September 2004

40025 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Racial differences not well understood, though South and Southeast Asian and Australasian race *torresii* (above) is considered darker than nominate of southwestern Asia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Lesser Crested Tern](#)].

Crested Tern (Thalasseus bergii)

The most common tern along the coastal and on islands, all year round. Breeds on [Michaelmas Cay](#). See [Lucinda Point](#).



Crested Tern (Thalasseus bergii cristatus)

Long Reef, New South Wales, 7 February 2007

46990 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Southeast Asian and Australasian race *cristatus* (above) has very dark upperparts.
More photos at [[Birdway: Crested Tern](#)].

Phaethontidae - Tropicbirds

Links to Species

- [Red-tailed Tropicbird](#)
- [White-tailed Tropicbird](#)

Red-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon rubricauda)

Seen very occasionally on trips to the Great Barrier Reef e.g. [Michaelmas Cay](#)



Red-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon rubricauda roseotinctus)

Phillip Island, near Norfolk Island, Australia, 13 March 2012

141207 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Southwestern Pacific race *roseotincta* (above) may have general pale pink flush.
More photos at [[Birdway: Red-tailed Tropicbird](#)].

White-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon lepturus)

Seen very occasionally on reef trips e.g. [Michaelmas Cay](#).



White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus dorotheae*)

Flinder's Reef, Coral Sea, NE Australia, 17 December 2006

46031 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Pacific race *dorotheae* (above) has very slight apricot wash.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-tailed Tropicbird](#)].

Oceanitidae - Southern Storm-Petrels

Links to Species

- [Wilson's Storm-Petrel](#)
- [White-faced Storm-Petrel](#)

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

Few records from offshore waters.



Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)
Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 17 December 2006 46227 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

One record from Townsville and several from Coral Sea east of Mackay.

Procellariidae - Petrels and Shearwaters

Links to Species

- [Southern Giant-Petrel](#)
- [Wedge-tailed Shearwater](#)
- [Short-tailed Shearwater](#)

Southern Giant-Petrel (Macronectes giganteus)

A few records on the Great Barrier Reef.



Southern Giant-Petrel (Macronectes giganteus)

Between Snares and Auckland Islands, New Zealand, 20 November 2011

123566 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic. Birds breeding in the South Atlantic, on Gough Island and the Falkland Islands, may qualify as a separate race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Southern Giant-Petrel](#)].

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ardenna pacifica)

Recorded occasionally in offshore waters. Beach-washed birds have been collected along the coast.



Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ardenna pacifica)

Off Wollongong, New South Wales, 25 November 2006

43605 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic. Various races have been proposed but variations in individuals confuse the taxonomic situation.

More photos at [[Birdway: Wedge-tailed Shearwater](#)].

Short-tailed Shearwater (Ardenna tenuirostris)

Few records, mostly of birds blown ashore in cyclones.



Short-tailed Shearwater (Ardenna tenuirostris)

Off Wollongong, New South Wales, 25 November 2006

43868 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic.

Ciconiidae - Storks

Black-necked Stork (Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus)

Species of Special Interest. Also called Jabiru. Breeding resident in coastal wetlands. Found singly, in pairs or groups in fresh and saltwater areas. Try [Townsville Common](#).

See also: [Giru](#), [Eubanangee Swamp National Park](#), [Cattana Wetlands](#) and [Daintree River](#).



Black-necked Stork (Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis)

The Orient Wetland, NE Queensland, 14 May 2010

104452 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *australis* of Australia and southern New Guinea (above) has green sheen on head.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-necked Stork](#)].

Pelecanidae - Pelicans

Australian Pelican (Pelecanus conspicillatus)

Common. Numbers increase on coast when inland wetlands dry up.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Centenary Lakes](#).



Australian Pelican (Pelecanus conspicillatus)

Tyto Wetlands, Ingham, North Queensland, 17 August 2005

18740 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

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More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Pelican](#)].

Monotypic.

Ardeidae - Herons, Egrets and Bitterns

Links to Species

- [Australian Little Bittern](#)
- [Black Bittern](#)
- [Nankeen Night Heron](#)
- [Striated Heron](#)
- [Cattle Egret](#)
- [White-necked Heron](#)
- [Great-billed Heron](#)
- [Great Egret](#)
- [Intermediate Egret](#)
- [Pied Heron](#)
- [White-faced Heron](#)
- [Little Egret](#)
- [Eastern Reef Egret](#)

Australian Little Bittern (Ixobrychus dubius)

Rare breeder at [Tyto Wetlands](#) and rare visitor October-April, along reedy creeks, freshwater swamps and cane fields but difficult to locate. Prefers Bullrushes (*Typha*).



Australian Little Bittern (Ixobrychus dubius)

Ocean Grove, Victoria, 9 November 2001

07380 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Little Bittern](#)].

Formerly treated as race *dubius* of Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutes*) of Eurasia. Now treated as separate species. It has thicker bill than Eurasian counterpart and darker, more chestnut nape, sides to neck and upper-wing coverts.

Black Bittern (Ixobrychus flavicollis)

Scarce resident of wetlands and mangroves and some rivers. A good chance on the [Daintree River](#) from November-April.

See: [Warrina Conservation Park, Ingham](#), Macknade Wetland on the way to [Lucinda Point](#), [Eubenangee Swamp National Park](#).



Black Bittern (Dupetor flavicollis australis)

Daintree River, NE Queensland, 20 January 2016

168635 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *australis* (above) occurs in Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia. More photos at [[Birdway: Black Bittern](#)].

Nankeen Night Heron (Nycticorax caledonicus)

Fairly common near fresh water. Numbers greater in winter.

See: [Ross River](#).



Nankeen Night Heron (Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae)

Cairns, NE Queensland, 6 September 2015

168099 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *australasiae* (above) of Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia has white rather than black nuchal plumes when breeding, brighter rufous upperparts and white patch between neck and wings as compared with nominate race of New Caledonia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Nankeen Night-Heron](#)].

Striated Heron (Butorides striatus)

Often on reef and mud flats at low tide, or in mangroves along the coast or tidal creeks.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Striated Heron (Butorides striata macrorhyncha)

Townsville Port, NE Queensland, 29 May 2005

15718 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *macrorhyncha* (above) is resident in eastern Australia. Unlike the northwestern Australian race *stagnatilis*, it does not occur in grey and red morphs, but northern birds have a rufous wash compared with greyer southern ones and are sometimes treated as a separate race *littleri*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Striated Heron](#)].

Cattle Egret (Bulbulcus ibis)

First seen in this area in the 60s but uncommon until the 90s. Now an abundant breeding resident frequently found on the Tableland in winter and around Townsville in summer. See: [Ross River](#).



Eastern Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis coromandus)

The Orient Wetland, NE Queensland, 14 May 2010

104435 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Southeast Asian and Australasian race *coromandus* is larger, has heavier bill and longer legs than nominate race of eastern Eurasia, Africa and the Americas. It also has more extensive red on neck and head in breeding plumage. IOC treats it as a separate species (*Bubulcus coromandus*) but BirdLife doesn't.

More photos at [[Birdway: Cattle Egret](#)].

White-necked Heron (Ardea pacifica)

Mostly seen on marshy shallow water but sometimes on pastures, more often in the Dry.

See: [Townsville Common](#).



White-necked Heron (Ardea pacifica)

Townsville Town Common, Northeastern Queensland, 13 July 2008

80306 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-necked Heron](#)].

Monotypic.

Great-billed Heron (Ardea sumatrana)

Species of Special Interest. Rare, usually solitary in coastal creeks and mangroves. Follow signs to boat ramps, which will take you into mangrove areas. Try a boat cruise on the [Daintree](#) or [Mossman River](#) or [Hinchinbrook Channel](#).

See also: [Giru](#), [Toolakea Beach](#), [Cardwell](#), [Coquette Point National Park](#), [Eubananggee Swamp National Park](#), [Redden Island](#) and [Normanton/Karumba](#).



Great-billed Heron (Ardea sumatrana mathewsae)

Daintree River, NE Queensland, 1 February 2005

12988 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *mathewsae* (above) is browner and has shorter bill than nominate race of Southeast Asia and New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Great-billed Heron](#)].

Great Egret (Ardea alba)

Common on freshwater swamps, but will sometimes feed on the beach and in mangroves.

See: [Ross River](#) and [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Great Egret (Ardea alba modesta)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 27 June 2006

35779 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Eastern Asian and Australasian race *modesta* (above) differs from western Eurasian nominate race in behaviour when displaying and the breeding plumage has bluer lores and redder upper legs.

More photos at [[Birdway: Great Egret](#)].

Intermediate Egret (Ardea intermedia)

Very common in freshwater swamps.

See: [Ross River](#) and [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Intermediate Egret (Ardea intermedia plumifera)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 27 June 2006

35709 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Compared with nominate race of South and Southeast Asia, race *plumifera* of Australia, New Guinea and Eastern Indonesia has all-yellow rather than black-tipped bill when non-breeding and red rather than blackish bill when breeding.

More photos at [[Birdway: Intermediate Egret](#)].

Pied Heron (Egretta picata)

Species of Special Interest. Occasionally seen on freshwater swamps and coastal areas, such as the [Townsville Common](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Lake Mitchell](#) usually October-May.



Pied Heron (Egretta picata)

Yellow Water, Kadadu, Northern Territory, 8 September 2010

91822 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Heron](#)].

Monotypic.

White-faced Heron (Egretta novaehollandiae)

Common in or near wetlands. Numbers increase during the Dry.



White-faced Heron (Egretta novaehollandiae)

Bluewater Creek, Townsville District, Northeastern Queensland, 29 April 2005

14434 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Probably monotypic, though birds in northwestern Australia are darker and sometimes treated as race *parryi*.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-faced Heron](#)].

Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)

Common on freshwater coastal swamps, and like the [Great Egret](#), visits foreshores and mangroves. A very active feeder.

See: [Ross River](#) and [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Little Egret (Egretta garzetta immaculata)

Townsville Town Common, NE Queensland, 3 March 2008

63791 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australasian race *immaculata* (above) has yellow lores and black feet with olive soles, rather than bluish-grey lores and yellow feet of nominate Eurasian and African race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Egret](#)].

Eastern Reef Egret (Egretta sacra)

Common slate-grey or white egret of coasts, reefs and islands.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#), [Green Island](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Dark Morph Eastern Reef Egret (Egretta sacra)

Townsville Port, NE Queensland, 15 July 2003

01503 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate Australasian and Asian race has dark grey (above) and white (below) morphs.



White Morph Eastern Reef Egret (Egretta sacra)

Christmas Island, Indian Ocean, 6 September 2006

40666 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Reef Egret](#)].

Threskiornithidae - Ibises and Spoonbills

Links to Species

- [Australian White Ibis](#)
- [Straw-necked Ibis](#)
- [Yellow-billed Spoonbill](#)
- [Royal Spoonbill](#)
- [Glossy Ibis](#)

Australian White Ibis (Threskiornis moluccus)

More common in coastal areas than on the Tableland. It often scavenges for food in local dumps. There is a large breeding colony on [Ross River](#) in Townsville.

See also: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Australian White Ibis (Threskiornis moluccus)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 5 November 2009

94428 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian White Ibis](#)].

Larger nominate race occurs in Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia.

Straw-necked Ibis (Threskiornis spinicollis)

Found throughout the area but more common during the Dry. Townsville must be one

of the few cities in the world to have ibis as garden birds.



Straw-necked Ibis (Threskiornis spinicollis)

Darwin, Northern Territory, 2 September 2009

91141 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Straw-necked Ibis](#)].

Monotypic.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill (Platalea flavipes)

Much less common than the [Royal Spoonbill](#). Some years not seen at all.



Yellow-billed Spoonbill (Platalea flavipes)

Morris Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 25 June 2006

35405 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-billed Spoonbill](#)].

Monotypic.

Royal Spoonbill (Platalea regia)

Regularly seen on most freshwater swamps. More common near the coast. It breeds with ibis and egrets near [Ross River](#) in Townsville.

See also: [Jerona Road & Hodel Road](#), [Townsville Common](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Centenary Lakes](#).



Royal Spoonbill (Platalea regia)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 27 June 2006

35816 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Royal Spoonbill](#)].

Monotypic.

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

Sporadic visitor to drying freshwater swamps.

See: [The Orient](#) and [Lake Mitchell](#).



Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

Pentland, Northeastern Queensland, 7 June 2009

90215 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Glossy Ibis](#)].

Monotypic.

Fregatidae - Frigatebirds

Links to Species

- [Lesser Frigatebird](#)
- [Great Frigatebird](#)

Lesser Frigatebird (Fregata ariel)

Species of Special Interest. Seen regularly in offshore waters, e.g. [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Low Isles](#), often closer inshore during cyclonic conditions. Probably the more common of the two frigatebirds.



Female Lesser Frigatebird (Fregata ariel)

Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 13 December 2006

45109 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race occurs in Australia.



Male Lesser Frigatebird (Fregata ariel)

Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 13 December 2006

45449 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

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More photos at [[Birdway: Lesser Frigatebird](#)].

Great Frigatebird (Fregata minor)

Species of Special Interest. Seen regularly in offshore waters, e.g. [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Low Isles](#). During cyclonic conditions flocks come to coastal areas of the mainland, often in mixed flocks with Lesser Frigatebird.



Female Great Frigatebird (Fregata minor palmerstoni)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, 13 December 2006

45087 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race nesting in Coral Sea is *palmerstoni* - females usually have blue eye-rings (above) rather than the pink ones of the nominate race, which nests in the eastern Indian Ocean including Christmas Island.



Male Great Frigatebird (Fregata minor minor)

Christmas Island, Indian Ocean, 2 September 2006

39473 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Great Frigatebird](#)].

Sulidae - Boobies and Gannets

Links to Species

- [Australasian Gannet](#)
- [Red-footed Booby](#)
- [Brown Booby](#)
- [Masked Booby](#)

Australasian Gannet (Morus serrator)

Vagrant. Records from Michaelmas Cay, Cairns, Mission Beach, Cape Bowling Green.



Immature Australasian Gannet (Morus serrator)

Wollongong, New South Wales, 25 November 2006

43681 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australasian Gannet](#)].

Monotypic.

Red-footed Booby (Sula sula)

A few records from [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Cleveland Bay](#).



Light Morph Red-footed Booby (Sula sula rubripes)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, Australia, 13 December 2006

45257 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *rubripes* of Australia and the western Pacific is slightly larger than the nominate race of the Atlantic. Both occur in a variety of colour morphs including light brown, dark brown and mainly white.



Intermediate Morph Red-footed Booby (Sula sula rubripes)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, Australia, 13 December 2006

45231 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Adult intermediate and dark morphs both have brown wings, white tails, and red legs. Dark morph has darker body than intermediate.



Juvenile Red-footed Booby (Sula sula rubripes)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, Australia, 13 December 2006

45214 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Juveniles of all morphs are similar: dark overall, including tail, with brown legs. They change to adult plumage progressively. The bird in third photo is an older juvenile and has white tips to the tail.

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-footed Booby](#)].

Brown Booby (Sula leucogaster)

Species of Special Interest. Common in inshore and offshore waters. Usually seen on a reef trip, at [Michaelmas Cay](#) and [Low Isles](#) and during winter months between Townsville and [Magnetic Island](#).



Adult Brown Booby (Sula leucogaster plotus)

Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 13 December 2006

45211 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Juvenile (below) has nearly as much white on underwing as adult, but has pale brown breast and belly.



Juvenile Brown Booby (Sula leucogaster plotus)

1300Willis Island, Coral Sea, Northeastern Australia, 13 December 20064922 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Largest race *plotus* (above) occurs in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Booby](#)].

Masked Booby (Sula dactylatra)

Uncommon in offshore waters. Occasionally on [Michaelmas Cay](#).



Adult Masked Booby (Sula dactylatra personata)

East Diamond Islet, Coral Sea, Australia, 13 December 2006

45249 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *personata* (above) of Australia and western Pacific has dark olive or grey legs and feet compared with yellow-orange or olive ones in the Atlantic nominate race.



Juvenile Masked Booby (Sula dactylatra personata)

Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, 14 May 2013

154227 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Juvenile (above) has white body with brown head, flight and tail feathers.

More photos at [[Birdway: Masked Booby](#)].

Phalacrocoracidae - Cormorants and Shags

Links to Species

- [Little Pied Cormorant](#)
- [Great Cormorant](#)
- [Little Black Cormorant](#)
- [Pied Cormorant](#)

Little Pied Cormorant (Phalacrocorax melanoleucos)

Very common, often solitary but also in flocks, sometimes with [Little Black Cormorants](#).



Little Pied Cormorant (Phalacrocorax melanoleucos)

Ross River, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 11 October 2011

121476 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Pied Cormorant](#)].

Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)

Uncommon on freshwater lakes and larger dams such as [Tinaroo](#) and [Ross River Dams](#).



Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae)

Port Hacking, New South Wales, 11 February 2007

47318 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *novaehollandiae* of Australia and New Zealand is smaller than nominate North Atlantic race and, in breeding plumage, has fewer white filoplumes on neck (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Great Cormorant](#)].

Little Black Cormorant (Phalacrocorax sulcirostris)

Little Black Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common inhabitant of fresh and salt water areas.

See: [Ross River](#).



Little Black Cormorant (Phalacrocorax sulcirostris)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 21 October 2007

60740 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Black Cormorant](#)].

Monotypic.

Pied Cormorant (Phalacrocorax varius)

Scattered along the coast. Look on poles and beacons at the mouths of rivers and harbours. Also on [Ross River Dam](#).



Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius hypoleucos*)

Werribee, Victoria, 10 June 2001

02622 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *hypoleucos* of Australia (above) has orange rather than yellow lores and lacks the black peak on the side of the head of the nominate New Zealand race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Cormorant](#)].

Anhingidae - Darters

Australasian Darter (Anhinga novaehollandiae)

Common breeding resident, found on deeper freshwater areas and along the coast.

See: [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#), [Ross River](#), [Goldsborough Valley](#) and [Yorkeys Knob](#).



Australasian Darter (Anhinga novaehollandiae)

Breakwater, Townsville Port, Northeastern Queensland, 13 March 2008

63842 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australasian Darter](#)].

Monotypic. Used to be treated as race *novaehollandiae* of Oriental Darter but has marked difference in plumage between the sexes with females having white rather than dark underparts.

Pandionidae - Ospreys

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)

Breeding pairs spaced regularly along the coast and on offshore islands. Nests are usually in prominent positions, such as at the top of a Hoop Pine or on a large rock. Artificial structures like electricity pylons and telecommunication towers are popular too.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Toomulla Beach](#), [Lucinda Point](#), [Cairns Cemetery](#), [Low Isles](#) and [Wonga Beach](#).



Osprey (Pandion haliaetus cristatus)

Alva Beach, Ayr District, NE Queensland, 17 January 2014

156908 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Smallest race *cristatus* (above) of Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia has breast band linking to eye-stripes and is treated as a separate species the Eastern Osprey (*P. cristatus*) by IOC, but not by BirdLife.

More photos at [\[Birdway Osprey\]](#).

Accipitridae - Eagles, Kites, Goshawks and Osprey

Links to Species

- [Black-shouldered Kite](#)
- [Letter-winged Kite](#)
- [Black-breasted Buzzard](#)
- [Square-tailed Kite](#)
- [Pacific Baza](#)
- [Wedge-tailed Eagle](#)
- [Little Eagle](#)
- [Swamp Harrier](#)
- [Spotted Harrier](#)
- [Grey Goshawk](#)
- [Brown Goshawk](#)
- [Collared Sparrowhawk](#)
- [Red Goshawk](#)
- [White-bellied Sea-Eagle](#)
- [Whistling Kite](#)
- [Brahminy Kite](#)
- [Black Kite](#)

Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus axillaris)

Frequents cleared farming land on the Tableland; it is less common at lower altitudes and sometimes visits the [Townsville Common](#).



Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus axillaris)

Tyto Wetlands, Ingham, Northeastern Queensland, 28 September 2002

12400 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-shouldered Kite](#)].

Monotypic.

Letter-winged Kite (Elanus scriptus)

Irruptions to area during inland drought. Toonpan 1995.



Letter-winged Kite (Elanus scriptus)

Birdsville Track, South Australia, 4 March 2013

152310 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Letter-winged Kite](#)].

Monotypic.

Black-breasted Buzzard (Hamirostra melanosternon)

Visitor to Tableland and occasionally Townsville district in winter and spring.



Black-breasted Buzzard (Hamirostra melanosternon)

Cunnamulla, Southwestern Queensland, 19 April 2014

157578 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-breasted Buzzard](#)].

Monotypic.

Square-tailed Kite (Lophoictinia isura)

Uncommon throughout the area. Most records are from April to November, over areas of extensive woodland, over cropland and near rainforest.

See: [Cungulla](#), [Bluewater](#), [Broadwater Creek](#) and [Cardwell](#).



Square-tailed Kite (Lophoictinia isura)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 22 July 2012

130216 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Square-tailed Kite](#)].

Monotypic.

Pacific Baza (Aviceda subcristata)

Also called Crested Hawk. Occurs in wooded areas including suburban gardens and lowland rainforest; uncommon.

See [Ross River](#), [Broadwater Creek](#) and [Centenary Lakes](#).



Pacific Baza (Aviceda subcristata)

Atherton, Northeastern Queensland, 10 June 2006

34497 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian nominate race (above) is the largest. It has brownish wash on upperparts and rufous-brown barring on underparts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pacific Baza](#)].

Wedge-tailed Eagle (Aquila audax)

Moderately common. Usually seen high over forested areas, pastures and crops, and also larger offshore islands such as [Magnetic](#) and [Hinchinbrook](#).



Wedge-tailed Eagle (Aquila audax)

Harvey's Range, Northeastern Queensland, 10 May 2009

89922 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race in mainland Australia and southern New Guinea (above); adult of large-footed race *fleayi* of Tasmania has pale nape and lacks rufous in plumage.

More photos at [[Birdway: Wedge-tailed Eagle](#)].

Little Eagle (Hieraetus morphnoides)

Scarce throughout the area, typically seen being mobbed by smaller birds.



Light Morph Little Eagle (Hieraetus morphoides)

Tuggerah, New South Wales, 8 May 2012

141921 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Has both light (above) and dark (below) morphs; nominate race of Australia has less streaking on breast than *weiskei* of New Guinea.



Dark Morph Little Eagle (Hieraetus morphoides)

Talbot, Victoria, 6 March 2015

165008 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Eagle](#)].

Swamp Harrier (Circus approximans)

Fairly common over swamps, reed beds and grassland, particularly March-September.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Hull Heads](#) and [Nardellos Lagoon](#).



Swamp Harrier (Circus approximans)

Bruny Island, Tasmania, 3 December 2011

128026 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Swamp Harrier](#)].

Monotypic.

Spotted Harrier (Circus assimilis)

Uncommon visitor to grassland and melaleuca woodland.



Spotted Harrier (Circus assimilis)

Richmond, Northern Queensland, 18 July 2008

80355 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotted Harrier](#)].

Monotypic.

Grey Goshawk (Accipiter novaehollandiae)

Uncommon resident, usually at the edge of rainforest and beach scrubs.

See: [Broadwater Creek](#) and [Lake Morris](#).



Grey Goshawk (Accipiter novaehollandiae)

Tuggerah, New South Wales, 8 May 2012

141896 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate Australian race has both grey (above) and white (below) morphs and is larger than the races in New Guinea and eastern Indonesia. Both colour morphs

occur in northeastern Queensland.



Grey Goshawk (Accipiter novaehollandiae)

Bushland Beach, Northeastern Queensland, 25 May 2002

10441 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Goshawk](#)].

Brown Goshawk (Accipiter fasciatus)

Common but secretive, seen throughout the year in all wooded habitats.

See: [Broadwater Creek](#).



Brown Goshawk (Accipiter fasciatus didimus)

Broome, NW Western Australia, 3 September 2004

09130 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The tropical race of the Brown Goshawk, *didimus*, (both photos) is smaller and paler than the nominate southern race: length 37-46 cm compared with 40-55 cm. This means that there is some overlap in length of male Brown Goshawks with female [Collared Sparrowhawk](#) (up to 38 cm), so field marks such as rounded tail and beetle-brow of Brown Goshawk are better than size.



Brown Goshawk (Accipiter fasciatus didimus)

Cape York Peninsula, Northern Queensland, 8 Sept 2008

81522 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Goshawk](#)].

Collared Sparrowhawk (Accipiter cirrhocephalus)

Uncommon in wet sclerophyll and woodland.

See note on small size of tropical [Brown Goshawks](#). Notched tail and lack of beetle-brow are good field marks for Collared Sparrowhawk. Nominate race occurs in Australia.

The photo below shows short, square-tipped, notched tail.



Collared Sparrowhawk (Accipiter cirrhocephalus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 25 May 2004

30821 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The second photo shows small head, lack of 'beetle brow', surprised expression ('wide-eyed'), and slender legs and feet with long central toe.



Collared Sparrowhawk (Accipiter cirrocephalus)

Gluepot, South Australia, 20 April 2009

89108 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic.

More photos at [[Birdway: Collared Sparrowhawk](#)].

Red Goshawk (Erythrotriorchis radiatus)

Very rare in this area, as it is throughout its range. There are records from upper [Big Crystal Creek](#), [Ingham](#) district, [Kuranda](#), [Big Mitchell Creek](#) and [Mt Carbine](#).



Red Goshawk (Erythrorhynchus radiatus)

Cape York, Northern Queensland, 9 July 2008

80311 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red Goshawk](#)].

Monotypic.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster)

More widely spaced along the coast than the [Osprey](#). Occasionally seen inland. The huge, stick nests are used annually and relined with fresh green leaves.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Magnetic Island](#), [Toomulla Beach](#), [Dungeness](#) and [Lucinda Point](#) and [Low Isles](#).



White-bellied Sea-Eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster)

Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria, Northwestern Queensland, 29 September 2009

94033 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-bellied Sea-Eagle](#)].

Monotypic.

Whistling Kite (Haliastur sphenurus)

The second most numerous raptor in North Queensland, resident of woodland, wetlands and pastures.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Queens Gardens](#), [Atherton Tableland](#) and [Wonga Beach](#).



Whistling Kite (Haliastur sphenurus)

Darwin, Northern Territory, 3 September 2004

09109 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Whistling Kite](#)].

Monotypic.

Brahminy Kite (Haliastur indus)

Species of Special Interest. Common within a few kilometers of the coast, breeding May-September. Nests, often in mangroves, Hoop Pines or melaleucas, are usually better concealed than those of [Ospreys](#).

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Magnetic Island](#), [Toomulla Beach](#) and [Lucinda Point](#).



Brahminy Kite (Haliastur indus girrenera)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 15 May 2003

19986 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *girrenera* of Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia has pure white head and breast; nominate race of southern and Southeast Asia has dark grey streaks on white plumage.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brahminy Kite](#)].

Black Kite (Milvus migrans)

The most common raptor in North Queensland. It cruises along highways looking for road-kill and large numbers soar over cane fields when the cane is being fired. At most towns and cities it frequents the local dumps.

See: [Townsville Common](#) and [Atherton Tableland](#).



Black Kite (Milvus migrans affinis)

Toolakea Beach, NE Queensland, 19 July 2014

158580 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Compared with the nominate race of Europe, northern and central Asia, race *affinis* (above) of Australia and New Guinea has light brown rather than grey head and more rufous, more deeply forked tail.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black Kite](#)].

Tytonidae - Masked Owls

Links to Species

- [Eastern Grass Owl](#)
- [Lesser Sooty Owl](#)
- [Masked Owl](#)
- [Barn Owl](#)

Eastern Grass Owl (Tyto longimembris)

Species of Special Interest. Very local, in areas of long grass and around cane fields on the coastal lowlands, e.g on the road to [Wallaman Falls](#), and in agricultural areas on the northern Atherton Tableland around [Mareeba](#). Good chance at the eponymous [Tyto Wetlands](#) particular in the breeding season, which starts in October; check at the Tyto Wetlands Centre for recent records [<http://www.tyto.com.au/tyto-wetlands>].



Eastern Grass Owl (Tyto longimembris)

Town Common, Townsville, NE Queensland, 13 Dec 2017 184619 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Range of nominate race (above) includes India, Indonesia and Australia.
More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Grass Owl](#)].

Lesser Sooty Owl (Tyto multipunctata)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident of rainforests and wet sclerophyll from the [Paluma Range](#) north. Listen for the 'falling bomb' call.



Lesser Sooty Owl (Tyto multipunctata)

Kingfisher Park, Julatten, NE Queensland, 4 Sept 2015

167819 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Wallaman Falls](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [The Crater National Park](#), [Palmerston Section](#), [Wooroonooran National Park](#) and [Kingfisher Park](#), [Julatten](#).

More photos at [[Birdway: Lesser Sooty Owl](#)].

In the past sometimes treated as race *multipunctata* of the (Greater) Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*; now usually treated as a separate species. It occurs between Cooktown and Paluma and on [Hinchinbrook Island](#).

Masked Owl (Tyto novaehollandiae)

Scarce resident at the edges of cane fields, in open and closed woodland and at rainforest edges.

See: [Broadwater Creek](#) and [Wongabel State Forest](#).

Nominate race *novaehollandiae* ranges north to Townsville. Smaller northern race *kimberli* occurs on Atherton Tableland and Cape York. Both races have pale and intermediate morphs, the pale morph of *kimberli* being the palest *Tyto* owl in Australia.

Barn Owl (Tyto alba)

Resident on coastal lowlands but more common on the Tableland: try spotlighting at night on [Marks Lane](#) between the Gillies Highway and Lake Tinaroo Dam Road.



Barn Owl (Tyto alba delicatula)

Atherton Tableland, NE Queensland, 10 March 2006

31739 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Pale Australian race *delicatula* (above) is less golden than nominate race of Europe and North Africa.

More photos at [[Birdway: Barn Owl](#)].

Strigidae - Hawk-Owls

Links to Species

- [Rufous Owl](#)
- [Barking Owl](#)
- [Southern Boobook](#)

Rufous Owl (Ninox rufa)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon elusive resident in gallery forest, disturbed forest edges and complexes of eucalypt and rainforest. Local contacts may know of a current roost site.

See: [Queens Gardens](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Cairns Central Swamps](#), [Curtain Fig National Park](#) and [The Crater National Park](#).



Rufous Owl (Ninox rufa queenslandica)

Palmetum, Townsville, 25 February 2008

63605 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local race *queenslandica* (above) is larger and darker with larger dark eye patches than nominate race of the Northern Territory and NW Western Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Rufous Owl](#)].

Barking Owl (Ninox connivens)

Moderately common and widespread in open woodland, rainforest edges and also in some suburbs of [Townsville](#) and [Ingham](#).



Barking Owl (Ninox connivens peninsularis)

Kununurra, NW Western Australia, 19 September 2009

93457 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *peninsularis* (above) resides in northern Australia south as far as Cooktown on the east coast. Compared with the nominate race of southern and eastern Australia (below), it is smaller, darker and has chestnut-brown rather than grey-brown streaks on the breast.



Barking Owl (Ninox connivens connivens)

Magnetic Island, NE Queensland, 7 October 2004

10842 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Barking Owl](#)].

Southern Boobook (Ninox boobook)

Moderately common in all wooded areas especially around [Townsville](#) and [Ingham](#).

See: [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Southern Boobook (Ninox boobook boobook)

Armidale, New England, New South Wales, 22 January 2011

114377 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Brown and white race nominate *boobook* (above) resides in coastal eastern Australia as far north as Ingham. The smaller darker race *lurida*, inhabits upland rainforests, an unusual habitat for this species which normally prefers more open country. The more cinnamon brown race *ocellata* with buffer breast streaks (below) ranges west of the Dividing Range as well as north and west of Cooktown.



Southern Boobook (Ninox boobook ocellata)

SW of Charters Towers, NE Queensland, 2 May 2010

100547 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Southern Boobook](#)].

Meropidae - Bee-eaters

Rainbow Bee-eater (Merops ornatus)

Resident and common on the coastal lowlands in the south of the region. Large flocks pass through the area on migration in early and late dry season.

See [Ross River](#) and [Townsville Common](#).



Rainbow Bee-eater (Merops ornatus)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 58 May 200

15231 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Rainbow Bee-eater](#)].

Monotypic.

Coraciidae - Rollers

Dollarbird (Eurystomus orientalis)

Seasonally common. Prefers rainforest edges, eucalypt woodland, and cleared areas that have retained some tall old trees with hollows, for example along Forestry Road on the way to [Bluewater Forest](#). Breeds October-May and migrates to New Guinea for the winter.

See [Redden Island](#).



Dollarbird (Eurystomus orientalis pacificus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 16 December 2009

97748 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *pacificus* of Australia and eastern Indonesia has greyer upperparts and underparts than nominate race of Southeast Asia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Dollarbird](#)].

Alcedinidae - Kingfishers

Links to Species

- [Little Kingfisher](#)
- [Azure Kingfisher](#)
- [Forest Kingfisher](#)
- [Collared Kingfisher](#)
- [Sacred Kingfisher](#)
- [Red-backed Kingfisher](#)
- [Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#)
- [Laughing Kookaburra](#)
- [Blue-winged Kookaburra](#)

Little Kingfisher (Ceyx pusillus)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon. Liable to turn up on any coastal creeks or swamps where there is dense vegetation. Scarce on the Tableland. Invades coastal streams in the Dry. Regularly seen on [Daintree River](#) boat trips.

See: [Toolakea Beach](#), [Johnstone River Crocodile Farm](#), [Coquette Point](#), [Centenary Lakes](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Little Kingfisher (Ceyx pusillus halli)

Daintree River, NE Queensland, 20 August 2011

120197 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *halli* of northeastern Queensland is deeper royal blue than race *ramsayi* of

northern Australia and has less extensive blue patches on sides of breast; blue breast patches of *ramsayi* almost form breast-band.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Kingfisher](#)].

Azure Kingfisher (Ceyx azureus)

Resident along creeks particularly in rainforest and mangroves. More common in lowland and foothills. Regularly seen on [Daintree River](#) boat trips.

See: [Alligator Creek](#), [The Palmetum](#), [Coquette Point](#), [The Boulders](#) and [Goldsborough Valley](#).



Azure Kingfisher (Ceyx azureus azureus)

Daintree River, NE Queensland, 20 August 2011

120099 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

Nominate race (above) ranges as far north as Cooktown. More chestnut-breasted, shorter-winged, shorter-tailed, longer-billed race *ruficollaris* (below) occurs across northern Australia west of Cooktown.



Azure Kingfisher (Ceyx azureus ruficollaris)

Yellow Water, Kakadu, Northern Territory, 8 September 2009

91858 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Azure Kingfisher](#)].

Forest Kingfisher (Todiramphus macleayii)

Widespread, very common resident in woodland and more open country. Numbers increase in coastal lowlands in winter. Commonly seen on powerlines on quiet roads.

See: [Giru](#), [Ross River](#), [Jourama Falls](#) and [Goldsborough Valley](#).



Forest Kingfisher (Todiramphus macleayii incinctus)

Tyto Wetlands, Ingham, NE Queensland, 17 August 2005

18534 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *incinctus* of eastern Australia (above) has greener back and smaller white wing patches than blue-backed nominate race of the Northern Territory.

More photos at [[Birdway: Forest Kingfisher](#)].

Collared Kingfisher (Todiramphus chloris)

Uncommon and patchily distributed. Prefers undisturbed mangrove areas and beaches. Try [Redden Island](#), the Cairns [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) and the mangrove walk at the southern end of [Cardwell](#).

See also: [Plantation Creek](#), [Coquette Point](#) and [Low Isles](#).



Collared Kingfisher (Todiramphus chloris sordidus)

Cardwell, NE Queensland, 25 December 2014

163820 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *sordidus* (above) of northern Australia including northeastern Queensland has dark eye-stripe and greener wings than nominate race of eastern Indonesia and northwestern New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Collared Kingfisher](#)].

Sacred Kingfisher (Todiramphus sanctus)

Most common during winter months though some are resident. Commonly seen near and in mangroves and swamp woodland.

See: [Plantation Creek](#) and [Coquette Point](#).



Sacred Kingfisher (Todiramphus sanctus)

Toonpan, Northeastern Queensland, 1 August 2010

106321 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of Australia (above) has paler underparts than other races of New Zealand and islands of southwestern Pacific.

More photos at [[Birdway: Sacred Kingfisher](#)].

Red-backed Kingfisher (Todiramphus pyrrhopygius)

In coastal areas a dry season visitor from inland Australia, seen on powerlines in lightly wooded and open country around [Giru](#) and Townsville such as [Toonpan](#) and drier parts of the Tableland such as [Mareeba](#) and [Mt Carbine](#). Resident in inland areas of northern Australia; try [Cumberland Dam](#).



Red-backed Kingfisher (Todiramphus pyrropygius)

Ross Dam, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 13 July 2005

17083 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-backed Kingfisher](#)].

Monotypic.

Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher (Tanysiptera sylvia)

Species of Special Interest. A good reason to visit North Queensland in summer! Locally common in closed forests especially at low altitudes from October to April. Try [Paluma](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Julatten](#), [Daintree](#) and [Kuranda](#) areas. Migrates to New Guinea during winter.

See also: [Clump Mountain](#) and [Ivan Evans Walk](#), both in the Mission Beach area.



Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher (Tanysiptera sylvia)
Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 9 November 2002 13228 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Blue-crowned, more intensely coloured nominate race of coastal northern and eastern Queensland (above) winters in New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher](#)].

Laughing Kookaburra (Dacelo novaeguineae)

Common widespread resident in most wooded areas and suburbs with plenty of trees.

See [Magnetic Island](#).



Laughing Kookaburra (Dacelo novaeguineae)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 27 July 2010

105978 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of eastern Australia (above) replaced north of Cooktown by smaller race *minor*. Note that despite the specific name *novaeguineae*, it does not occur in New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Laughing Kookaburra](#)].

Blue-winged Kookaburra (Dacelo leachii)

Species of Special Interest. Resident throughout this region but prefers more open habitat. Often seen on powerlines by roads through lightly timbered woodland and pastures.

See: [Cromarty](#) and [Magnetic Island](#).



Blue-winged Kookaburra (Dacelo leachii)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 16 June 2003

20448 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) with streaked head and lightly barred white underparts ranges across northern Australia. Other races occur in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and in southern New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Blue-winged Kingfisher](#)].

Falconidae - Falcons

Links to Species

- [Nankeen Kestrel](#)
- [Australian Hobby](#)
- [Brown Falcon](#)
- [Grey Falcon](#)
- [Black Falcon](#)
- [Peregrine Falcon](#)

Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)

Also called Australian Kestrel. Found in any country where it can hunt in open space, even urban areas. Numbers greater in the dry season.

See: [Atherton Tableland](#).



*Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)*

Long Reef, New South Wales, 24 March 2004

05908 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Male of Australian nominate race (above) is paler and smaller than that of *baru* of New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Nankeen Kestrel](#)].

Australian Hobby (Falco longipenni)

Fairly common in wooded areas in [Ingham](#) and [Townsville](#). Seen over open pastures in the dry season on the [Tableland](#).



Australian Hobby (Falco longipennis longipennis)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 25 July 2002

11555 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Larger nominate race (above) breeds in southern Australia but moves north in winter as far as southern New Guinea. Paler northern and inland birds separated into race *murchisonianus* (below). A third race smaller race (*hanieli*) occurs in the Lesser Sundas.



Australian Hobby (Falco longipennis murchisonianus)

Bowra, SW Queensland, 5 November 2008

82012 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Hobby](#)].

Brown Falcon (Falco berigora)

Common in open woodland and farmland, particularly in the dry season.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Mary Farms-Mt Carbine](#).



Brown Falcon (Falco berigora)

Giru, North Queensland, 21 June 2005

C16518 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Falcon](#)].

Probably monotypic, though very variable in colour with rufous and dark morphs.

Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)

Rare vagrant.

See: [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



*Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)*

Winton District, Central West Queensland, 16 May 2018

188079 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Falcon](#)].

Monotypic.

Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*)

Rare visitor to lightly timbered country in drier areas.



Black Falcon (Falco subniger)

Yappo Creek, Northwestern Queensland, 16 September 2006

41691 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black Falcon](#)].

Monotypic.

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)

Uncommon but widespread. Frequently seen over [Castle Hill](#) in Townsville.



Adult Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus macropus)

Castle Hill, Townsville, NE Queensland, 14 Oct 2017

182747 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Compared with the nominate race of temperate Eurasia, the Australian race *macropus* (above) is smaller, has black of head extending over ear region, and has underparts with a rusty tinge.

More photos at [[Birdway: Peregrine Falcon](#)].

Cacatuidae - Cockatoos and Corellas

Links to Species

- [Cockatiel](#)
- [Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo](#)
- [Glossy Black-Cockatoo](#)
- [Galah](#)
- [Little Corella](#)
- [Sulphur-crested Cockatoo](#)

Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)

Nomadic. A drought refugee to drier country near the coast south and west of Townsville, and rarely to the western edge of the Tableland. More likely to be seen inland, for example [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Cockatiel (Nymphicus hollandicus)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 15 April 2007

48207 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Cockatiel](#)].

Monotypic.

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common in eucalypt forests and woodland, usually where there are seeding casuarinas. Often seen in city parks and gardens in [Townsville](#) feeding on *Terminalia* - Beach Almond - trees.

See: [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#).



Male Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 10 July 2007

57363 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local nominate race of northern and eastern Queensland is the largest race; females have orange-yellow tails (below).



Female Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii)

Cardwell, Northeastern Queensland, 6 March 2009

85242 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo](#)].

Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus lathami)

Small population at [Mt Zero](#) out of usual range. Bred at Paluma 1999.



Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus lathami erebus)

Paluma District, NE Queensland, 19 March 2010

99277 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The local population is presumably of the Central Queensland race *erebus* (above), which has a smaller bill than the nominate race of eastern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Glossy Black-Cockatoo](#)].

Galah (Eolophus roseicapillus)

Common in arid country but visits the coast and Tableland in times of drought. Captive birds released on [Magnetic Island](#) in 1986 have bred there.

See: [Mary Farms-Mt Carbine](#).



Galah (Eolophus roseicapillus albiceps)

Pentland, NE Queensland, 25 June 2011

116910 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *albiceps* of eastern and central Australia has pale, almost white crown and crest and pink eye-ring. Small paler-grey northern Australian race *kuhli* has pinkish crown and crest, pink eye-ring, and occurs on Cape York. Location of transition between the two races in northeastern Queensland uncertain. Nominate race of western and central Australia has pinkish crown and crest and grey eye-ring.

More photos at [[Birdway: Galah](#)].

Little Corella (Cacatua sanguinea)

More common in inland Queensland but seen regularly near [Townsville](#) and western edge of the Tableland.



Little Corella (Cacatua sanguinea gymnopsis)

Clermont, Central Queensland, 16 March 2004

05533 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Eastern Australian race *gymnopsis* occurs in northeastern Queensland; replaced on Cape York by *normantoni*. Both have more pink on lores and face than nominate race of northern and northwestern Australia and darker blue around eye; *normantoni* is smaller than the other races.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Corella](#)].

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (Cacatua galerita)

Common at low and moderate altitudes in rainforest, all types of woodland, parks and gardens. Also on continental islands, e.g. [Hinchinbrook](#), [Magnetic](#) and [Dunk Islands](#).



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (Cacatua galerita)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 21 June 2003

00166 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of eastern Australia (above) has white eye-ring and yellowish wash on ear-coverts; race *fitzroyi* of the northern territory and northwestern Western Australia has bluish eye-ring and usually white ear-coverts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Sulphur-crested Cockatoo](#)].

Psittacidae - Parrots, Lorikeets and Rosellas

Links to Species

- [Australian King-Parrot](#)
- [Red-winged Parrot](#)
- [Crimson Rosella](#)
- [Northern Rosella](#)
- [Pale-headed Rosella](#)
- [Little Lorikeet](#)
- [Varied Lorikeet](#)
- [Rainbow Lorikeet](#)
- [Red-collared Lorikeet](#)
- [Scaly-breasted Lorikeet](#)
- [Budgerigar](#)
- [Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#)

Australian King-Parrot (Alisterus scapularis)

Resident of upland rainforest and wet sclerophyll. Less common in coastal lowland rainforest. Endemic sub-species.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Big Crystal Creek](#).



Australian King-Parrot (Alisterus scapularis minor)

Lake Eacham, NE Queensland, 10 July 2006

35993 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

First photo shows a male of the local race *minor*, second shows a female. Geographically isolated race *minor* of northeastern Queensland is smaller than nominate race of eastern and southeastern Australia.



Australian King Parrot (Alisterus scapularis minor)

Lake Eacham, NE Queensland, 10 July 2006

36038 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian King Parrot](#)].

Red-winged Parrot (Aprosmictus erythropterus)

Nomadic. Comes to eucalypt woodland in the drier parts of the area July-September. Usually at [Toomulla Beach](#) and along Forestry Road on the way to [Bluewater Forest](#), north of Townsville and in melaleuca forests on Cape Cleveland.

See also: [Mareeba Wetlands](#), [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#).



Red-winged Parrot (Aprosmictus erythropterus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 10 December 2003

04064 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds in northern Australia and New Guinea are smaller and have a blue wash on hind-crown; they are sometimes treated as a separate race *coccineopterus*. There is a zone of intergradation with the eastern nominate race and some birds in northeastern Queensland show a blue tinge on the crown (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-winged Parrot](#)].

Crimson Rosella (Platycercus elegans)

Resident of some upland rainforest and wet sclerophyll, especially above 600m. Common at [Paluma](#).



Adult Crimson Rosella (Platycercus elegans nigrescens)

Paluma, NE Queensland, 30 June 2018

188955 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Queensland race *nigrescens* (adult above) is smaller and darker than the nominate race and juveniles (below) have blackish-brown rather than green backs.



Immature Crimson Rosella (Platycercus elegans nigrescens)

Paluma, NE Queensland, 4 March 2011

115102 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Crimson Rosella](http://birdway.com.au/Crimson-Rosella)].

Northern Rosella (Platycercus venustus)

Uncommon in open woodland in northern Australia east to far northwestern Queensland, e.g. [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Northern Rosella (Platycercus venustus)

Edith Falls, Northern Territory, 15 November 2002

13842 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds in NW Queensland and the Northern Territory (above) belong to the nominate race. Those in NW Western Australia have larger bills, more violet cheeks and tend to lack black scaling on breast; they are sometimes separated as race *hilli*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Northern Rosella](#)].

Pale-headed Rosella (Platycercus adscitus)

Fairly common in drier woodland and open forests. Usually absent from coast north of Cardwell.

See: [James Cook University](#), [Davies Creek](#) and [Mary Farms-Mt Carbine](#).



Pale-headed Rosella (Platycercus adscitus)

Musgrave, Cape York, N Queensland, 1 December 2009

97604 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Birds from Cairns northwards (above) belong to the nominate race and are paler yellow, with yellow upper breast separated from white cheeks by violet-blue patch. South of Cairns birds intergrade with southern race *palliceps* in which the breast is completely blue, the yellow more intense and cheeks are whitish with yellow tint (below).



Pale-headed Rosella (Platycercus adscitus palliceps)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 31 July 2010

105995 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pale-headed Rosella](#)].

Little Lorikeet (Glossopsitta pusilla)

Nomadic, found in wet sclerophyll and other drier eucalypt forest. More common inland than on the coastal plain. Try the [Grandis Forest](#) west of Paluma.



Little Lorikeet (Trichoglossus pusilla)

Grandis Forest, Northeastern Queensland, 25 April 2002

09445 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Lorikeet](#)].

Monotypic.

Varied Lorikeet (Psitteuteles versicolor)

Fairly common in open woodland in northern Australia east to Western Cape York and Cloncurry in northwestern Queensland. Nomadic in search of blooming trees and turns up farther east around Georgetown and Hughenden. Keep an eye out for it in [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#), [Normanton/Karumba](#) and [Cumberland Dam](#).



Varied Lorikeet (Psitteuteles versicolor)

Cloncurry, NW Queensland, 18 July 2008

80403 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Varied Lorikeet](#)].

Monotypic.

Rainbow Lorikeet (Trichoglossus moluccanus)

Abundant. Locally nomadic in all kinds of forest, woodland and gardens depending on flowering trees. At night huge noisy flocks roost in the city centres of Townsville and Cairns.



Rainbow Lorikeet (Trichoglossus haematodus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 13 March 2010

99074 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Recent taxonomic revision of Rainbow Lorikeet species complex (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) has resulted in splitting this into several species, of which three occur in Australia: the Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) of eastern Australia, the [Red-collared Lorikeet](#) of Northern Australia (*Trichoglossus rubritorquis*) and the Coconut Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus* sensu stricto) of Melanesia, Indonesia and New Guinea including two Torres Strait Islands - Boigu and Saibai - geographically part of New Guinea but politically part of Australia.

The Rainbow Lorikeet as now defined is sometimes separated into races: the nominate race occurring in southeastern and eastern Australia north to Townsville, a smaller race septentrionalis north of Townsville and perhaps a third, *eyrei*, in the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Rainbow Lorikeet](#)].

Red-collared Lorikeet (Trichoglossus rubritorquis)

Originally treated as a race of the Rainbow Lorikeet; now given full species status. Common in Northern Australia east to the Gulf of Carpentaria. See [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Red-collared Lorikeet (Trichoglossus rubritorquis)

Pine Creek, Northern Territory, 14 September 2009

92328 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-collared Lorikeet](#)].

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus)

Nomadic, often found with flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets, mainly in open forests.

See: [Grandis Forest](#), [Centenary Lakes](#).



Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 1 November 2003

03195 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet](#)].

Monotypic.

Budgerigar (Melopsittacus undulatus)

Nomadic. An irregular visitor to drier areas south and west of Townsville in times of drought.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Budgerigar (Melopsittacus undulatus)

Woodstock-Giru Road, Northeastern Queensland, 1 May 2008

65816 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Budgerigar](#)].

Monotypic.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (Cyclopsitta diophthalma)

Species of Special Interest. Locally and seasonally common in lowland and upland rainforest and in adjacent open woodland where figs are fruiting. Look in Cairns parks and gardens. See [Accommodation in Cairns](#).



Male Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana)

Yungaburra, Northeastern Queensland, 30 November 2002

14174 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The local race *macleayana* is endemic to northeastern Queensland. Both sexes have red brows and blue around eyes. Male has red cheeks, female blue ones.



Female Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana)

Malanda, Northeastern Queensland, 5 December 2013

156625 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Double-eyed Fig-Parrot](#)].

Pittidae - Pittas

Noisy Pitta (*Pitta versicolor*)

Resident or possible altitudinal migrant, in rainforests and vine scrubs, but movements poorly known. More common in coastal lowlands and islands such as [Dunk Island](#).

See also [Magnetic Island](#), [Paluma](#), [Bluewater Forest](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#), [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#), [Lake Morris](#), [Wongabel State Forest](#) and [Julatten](#).



Noisy Pitta (Pitta versicolor simillima)

Lockhart River, Cape York, N Queensland, 3 January 2004

04654 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *simillima*, above, ranging north of Cairns is smaller, with brighter green back, and more intense buff-yellow underparts than nominate southern race *versicolor*. Third race *intermedia*, below, accepted by some authorities ranging from Cairns to Rockhampton.



Noisy Pitta (Pitta versicolor intermedia)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 24 July 2015

167062 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Noisy Pitta](#)].

Ptilonorhynchidae - Bowerbirds and Catbirds

Links to Species

- [Spotted Catbird](#)
- [Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#)
- [Golden Bowerbird](#)
- [Satin Bowerbird](#)
- [Spotted Bowerbird](#)
- [Great Bowerbird](#)

Spotted Catbird (Ailuroedus melanotis)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident in rainforest to 1200m, and easily located by distinctive yowling, nasal, cat-like calls.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Lacey Creek](#) and [Julatten](#).



Spotted Catbird (Ailuroedus melanotis maculosus)

Lake Eacham, Northeastern Queensland, 10 July 2006

35980 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local endemic race *maculosus* (above) has paler head marking and breast feathers have wider green borders than Cape York race *joanae* and nominate race of New Guinea.

Taxonomy of Catbirds of North Queensland and New Guinea is undergoing revision: race *maculosus* may be elevated to species status, *Ailuroedus maculosus* retaining

name Spotted Catbird, and race *joanae* becoming a race of the Black-eared Catbird of New Guinea and Cape York, *Ailuroedus melanotus*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotted Catbird](#)].

Tooth-billed Bowerbird (Scenopoeetes dentirostris)

Endemic Species. Common resident of rainforest 600-1400m; sometimes down to 350m in the wettest areas. More conspicuous and easier to find from September to January, when males are singing in their loud, often mimicking calls, usually near their display grounds.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Paluma](#), [Paluma Dam](#), [Lake Eacham](#), [Wongabel State Forest](#) and [Mount Lewis National Park](#).



Tooth-billed Bowerbird (Scenopoeetes dentirostris)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 7 October 2013

155899 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

More photos at [[Birdway: Tooth-billed Bowerbird](#)].

Monotypic.

Golden Bowerbird (Amblyornis newtonianus)

Endemic Species. Moderately common resident of upland rainforest 700-1500m, occasionally lower in winter. Males are easiest to see at bowers from October to January but may be there at other times. Seek local knowledge for up-to-date information on bower location at [Paluma Range](#), [Longlands Gap](#) or [Mt Lewis](#).

See also: [Paluma Dam](#) and [The Crater National Park](#).



Golden Bowerbird (Amblyornis newtonianus)

Atherton Tableland, Northeastern Queensland, 30 November 2002

14192 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Golden Bowerbird](#)].

Monotypic.

Satin Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus violaceus)

Uncommon resident in rainforests 700-1150m; down to 600m in winter.

See [Paluma Dam](#).



Male Satin Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus violaceus minor)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 4 March 2011

115067 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local endemic race *minor* is smaller than nominate race of eastern and southeastern Australia; females have green breasts (below). The local population is very isolated: more than 700km separates it from the northernmost population of the nominate race, at Kroombit Tops National Park south of Gladstone.



Female Satin Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus violaceus minor)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 18 July 2010

105832 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Satin Bowerbird](#)].

Spotted Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus maculata)

Few records of single birds on outskirts of Townsville.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Spotted Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus maculata)

Belyando Crossing, Central Queensland, 3 March 2006

30991 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotted Bowerbird](#)].

Monotypic.

Great Bowerbird (Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common to common in the drier parts of the region; in small patches of vine scrub and eucalypt woodland. Very common in [Townsville](#), where bowers are found in suburban gardens, parks such as [Queens Gardens](#) and the campus of [James Cook University](#). Conspicuous and easier to find from July to January when the males are attending their bowers.

See also [Big Mitchell Creek](#) and [Mt Molloy](#).



Great Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis orientalis*)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 20 June 2003

00115 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

North and northeastern Queensland race *orientalis* is smaller than the nominate race of northern Australia with darker, browner upperparts contrasting more strongly with whitish tips to wing feathers, and paler underparts. Nominate race occurs in northwestern Queensland as far east as Normanton.

More photos at [[Birdway: Great Bowerbird](#)].

Climacteridae - Treecreepers

Links to Species

- [White-throated Treecreeper](#)
- [Brown Treecreeper](#)
- [Black-tailed Treecreeper](#)

White-throated Treecreeper (Cormobates leucophaea)

Common resident above 300m in rainforest and adjoining wet sclerophyll.

See: [Grandis Forest](#), [Lake Eacham](#) and [Wongabel State Forest](#).



White-throated Treecreeper (Cormobates leucophaea minor)

Grandis Forest, Paluma, NE Queensland, 30 July 2007

57630 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local endemic race *minor* seen here - sometimes called 'Little Treecreeper' - is smaller and darker than the White-throated Treecreeper of eastern and southeastern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-throated Treecreeper](#)].

Brown Treecreeper (Climacteris picumnus)

Moderately common in drier open woodland on the western edge of the Tableland south to Paluma. Scarce on the coastal plain.

See: [The Inland Route to Paluma](#).



Brown Treecreeper (Climacteris picumnus melanotus)

Mitchell River Catchment, NE Queensland, 27 January 2008

62457 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

North Queensland race *melanotus* - 'Black Treecreeper' - above has blackish-brown upper parts and more conspicuous white eyebrow line.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Treecreeper](#)].

Black-tailed Treecreeper (Climacteris melanurus)

Common in open forest and grass woodland in Northern Australia as far east as Cloncurry in Northwestern Queensland.

See: [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Black-tailed Treecreeper (Climacteris melanurus)

Mount Isa-Camooweal, NW Queensland, 29 July 2008

81102 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of northern Australia including northwestern Queensland (above) is replaced by small, more chestnut race *wellsi* in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-tailed Treecreeper](#)].

Maluridae - Fairy-wrens, Emu-wrens and Grasswrens

Links to Species

- [Purple-crowned Fairy-wren](#)
- [Lovely Fairy-wren](#)
- [Red-backed Fairy-wren](#)

Purple-crowned Fairy-wren (Malurus coronatus)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon and local in dense riverside vegetation in northern Australia east to far northwestern Queensland.

See: [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Male Purple-crowned Fairy-wren (Malurus coronatus coronatus)

The Kimberleys, NW Western Australia, 11 September 2004 09878 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Compared with the than nominate race of the Kimberley and western Northern Territory (above), the isolated race *magillivrayi* near the Gulf of Carpentaria (below) has grey-brown rather than brown back and more greenish, less bluish tail.



Female Purple-crowned Fairy-wren (Malurus coronatus magillivrayi)
 Adel's Grove, Northwestern Queensland, 26 July 2008 80825 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Purple-crowned Fairywren](#)].

Lovely Fairy-wren (Malurus amabilis)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common near the coast north of Bluewater Creek, in dune scrub and rainforest edges and clearings. Scarce on the Tableland.



Male Lovely Fairy-wren (Malurus amabilis)
 Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 19 August 2004 08085 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

See: [Big Crystal Creek](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Cardwell Forest Drive](#), [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Female Lovely Fairy-wren (Malurus amabilis)

Cape York, Northern Queensland, 3 June 2010

104550 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Lovely Fairy-wren](#)].

Monotypic.

Red-backed Fairy-wren (Malurus melanocephalus)

Species of Special Interest. Common in areas of tall grass and shrubs in open woodland.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Cardwell Forest Drive](#) and [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#).



Male Red-backed Fairy-wren (Malurus melanocephalus)

Morris Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 2 March 2003

15978 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Male of nominate race of eastern Australia including NE Queensland has more

orange, less crimson back than race *cruentatus* of northern and northwestern Australia.



Female Red-backed Fairy-wren (Malurus melanocephalus)

Morris Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 29 September 2007 59077 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-backed Fairy-wren](#)].

Meliphagidae - Honeyeaters and Chats

Links to Species

- [Black Honeyeater](#)
- [Dusky Honeyeater](#)
- [Red-headed Honeyeater](#)
- [Scarlet Honeyeater](#)
- [Painted Honeyeater](#)
- [Striped Honeyeater](#)
- [Macleay's Honeyeater](#)
- [Helmeted Friarbird](#)
- [Silver-crowned Friarbird](#)
- [Noisy Friarbird](#)
- [Little Friarbird](#)
- [Banded Honeyeater](#)
- [Brown Honeyeater](#)
- [White-cheeked Honeyeater](#)
- [Blue-faced Honeyeater](#)
- [Black-chinned Honeyeater](#)
- [White-throated Honeyeater](#)
- [White-naped Honeyeater](#)
- [Eastern Spinebill](#)
- [Pied Honeyeater](#)
- [Rufous-throated Honeyeater](#)
- [Brown-backed Honeyeater](#)
- [Bar-breasted Honeyeater](#)
- [Crimson Chat](#)
- [Orange Chat](#)
- [White-gaped Honeyeater](#)
- [Yellow Honeyeater](#)
- [Lewin's Honeyeater](#)
- [Yellow-spotted Honeyeater](#)
- [Graceful Honeyeater](#)
- [Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater](#)
- [Bridled Honeyeater](#)
- [Singing Honeyeater](#)
- [Varied Honeyeater](#)
- [Mangrove Honeyeater](#)
- [Fuscous Honeyeater](#)
- [White-plumed Honeyeater](#)
- [Yellow-faced Honeyeater](#)
- [Noisy Miner](#)
- [Yellow-throated Miner](#)

Black Honeyeater (Sugomel niger)

Few records: Townsville 2004, 2009.



Black Honeyeater (Sugomel niger)

Bowra, Southwestern Queensland, 6 November 2008

82519 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway](#); [Black Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Dusky Honeyeater (Myzomela obscura)

Species of Special Interest. Abundant resident in rainforest, gallery forest, mangroves and deciduous vine scrubs.

See: [Alligator Creek](#), [Bluewater Forest](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Murray Falls](#).



Dusky Honeyeater (Myzomela obscura harteri)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 3 September 2007 58424 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Australian race *harteri* (above) is more rufous and has a more distinct dark throat patch than the nominate race of the Northern Territory.

More photos at [[Birdway: Dusky Honeyeater](#)].

Red-headed Honeyeater (Myzomela erythrocephala)

Species of Special Interest. Inhabits mangroves, open woodland and vine scrubs along the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York as far east as Cape Melville.

See: [Normanton/Karumba](#).



Red-headed Honeyeater (Myzomela erythrocephala)

Broome, NW Western Australia, 9 September 2004

09803 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate Australian race (above) replaced by darker race *infuscata* in New Guinea.
More photos at [[Birdway: Red-headed Honeyeater](#)].

Scarlet Honeyeater (Myzomela sanguinolenta)

Common in upland areas but less common in lowlands, in open forest often near streams.

See: [Alligator Creek](#), [Bluewater Forest](#), [Jourama Falls](#), [Five Mile Creek Swimming Hole](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Tinaroo](#), [Atherton](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Scarlet Honeyeater (Myzomela sanguinolenta)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 10 March 2010

99248 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Scarlet Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Painted Honeyeater (Grantiella picta)

Vagrant. Very few records.



Painted Honeyeater (Grantiella picta)

Clunes State Forest, Victoria, 29 October 2001

07116 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Painted Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Striped Honeyeater (Plectorhyncha lanceolata)

Very rare in drier southwest of region.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Striped Honeyeater (Plectorhyncha lanceolata)

Trafalgar Station, Northeastern Queensland, 2 May 2010

10420 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Striped Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Macleay's Honeyeater (Xanthotis macleayana)

Endemic Species. Moderately common in rainforests and sometimes in adjacent gardens, e.g. [Paluma](#), woodland and mangroves. Feeds in the middle and upper layers of the forest canopy. Easy to see (and photograph) at Kingfisher Park, [Julatten](#).

See also: [Murray Falls](#) and [Lake Morris or Copperlode Falls Dam](#).



Macleay's Honeyeater (Xanthotis macleayana)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 13 October 2003

02812 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Macleay's Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Helmeted Friarbird (Philemon buceroides)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident of coastal lowlands in open forests, vine scrubs, mangroves, gallery forests and gardens in cities and towns. Rare on the Tableland.

See: [Magnetic Island](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Helmeted Friarbird (Philemon buceroides yorki)

Alligator Creek, NE Queensland, 2 April 2006

32012 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *yorki* of northern and eastern Queensland (above) has large casque, silvery crown and pale throat and breast. Taxonomy of Helmeted Friarbird is confused and this race is sometimes called the Hornbill Friarbird and treated by the IOC as a separate species from those races occurring in the Northern Territory (*gordonii* - the 'Sandstone Friarbird'), New Guinea and eastern Indonesia.

Best distinguished from Silver-crowned Friarbird by shape of rear edge of bare skin and larger size.

More photos at [[Birdway: Helmeted Friarbird](#)].

Silver-crowned Friarbird (Philemon argenticeps)

Few authenticated reports in northeastern Queensland. It is easily confused with [Helmeted Friarbird](#) which also has a silver-grey crown. Occurs in Cape York and Northwestern Queensland, e.g. [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Silver-crowned Friarbird (*Philemon argenticeps kemp*)

Musgrave, Cape York Peninsula, Northern Queensland, 6 June 2010

105177 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Isolated Cape York race *kemp* (above) has smaller casque and bill than nominate northern Australian race, which ranges west of the southern Gulf of Carpentaria.

More photos at [[Birdway: Silver-crowned Friarbird](#)].

Noisy Friarbird (Philemon corniculatus)

Common nomadic honeyeater seen in flowering trees and tall shrubs in most drier areas. Resident in some areas.



Noisy Friarbird (*Philemon corniculatus*)

Paluma District, Northeastern Queensland, 18 August 2010

106630 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of northern and central Queensland (above) is smaller, with browner upperparts and paler underparts, and has shorter wings and tail than race *monachus* of eastern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Noisy Friarbird](#)].

Little Friarbird (Philemon citreogularis)

Resident in drier lowland woodland with numbers increasing in winter. Also visits the western drier parts of the Tableland.

See: [Toonpan](#) and [Lake Mitchell](#).



Little Friarbird (*Philemon citreogularis*)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 20 December 2012

151469 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *sordidus* of northern Australia intergrades with nominate race in western Cape York and has longer bill and more grey-brown underparts (the colour 'sordid' is muddy grey-brown) than the nominate race (above); there is a third smaller and darker race *papuensis* in New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Friarbird](#)].

Banded Honeyeater (Cissomela pectoralis)

Nomadic. Few records in drier parts of region when eucalypts and melaleucas are flowering.

See: [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Banded Honeyeater (Cissomela pectoralis)

White Mountains, Northeastern Queensland, 8 June 2009

90394 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Banded Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Brown Honeyeater (Lichmera indistincta)

Common resident, everywhere except rainforest, wherever there are flowering trees, shrubs and mistletoes in woodland, mangroves and gardens.

See: [Ross River and Lake Ross \(Ross River Dam\)](#), [Murray Falls](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta ocularis*)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 21 October 2007

60704 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Compared with nominate race of western Australia: eastern Australian race *ocularis* (above) has smaller cream-coloured rather than yellow plume; female has grey-brown rather than grey crown.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Honeyeater](#)].

White-cheeked Honeyeater (Philidonyris niger)

Moderately common resident of upland wet sclerophyll forest such as [Paluma](#), but possibly nomadic following flowering trees.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Davies Creek National Park](#) and [Mount Lewis National Park](#).



White-cheeked Honeyeater (Philidonyris niger)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 4 March 2011

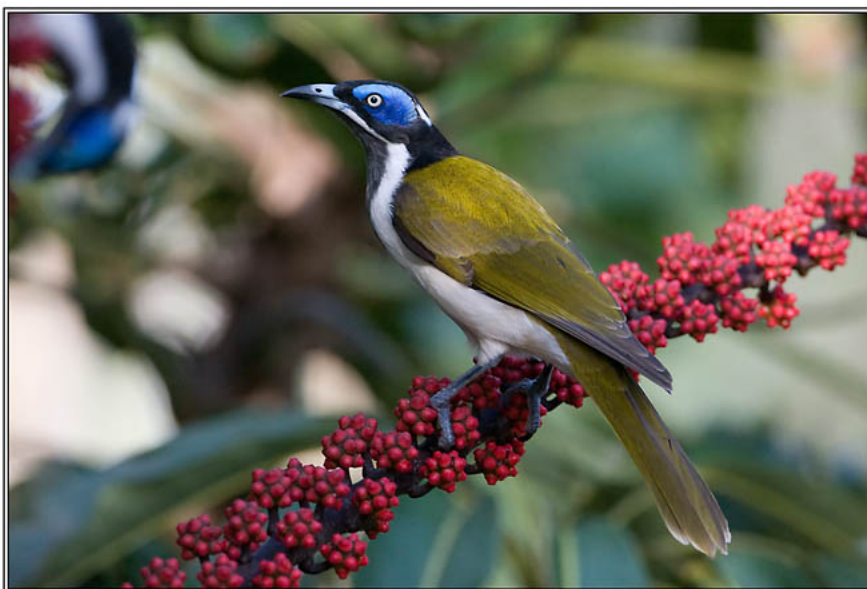
115009 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern Australian race (above) has fan-shaped rather than pear-shaped white cheek patch, compared with race *gouldii* of southwestern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-cheeked Honeyeater](#)].

Blue-faced Honeyeater (Entomyzon cyanotis)

Common in regions of medium rainfall (50-100cm). Inhabits woodland, gardens and open forest at all altitudes.



Blue-faced Honeyeater (Entomyzon cyanotis cyanotis)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 13 March 2010

98947 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern Australian race (above) intergrades with smaller Cape York race *griseogularis* (below) along the Burdekin-Mitchell Divide. Race *griseogularis* has larger buff patch on wings showing through on upper surface, narrower black band on crown, more yellow upperparts, relatively shorter wings and tail. The bird in the photo below is from the zone of intergradation but appears more like *griseogularis*.



Blue-faced Honeyeater (Entomyzon cyanotis griseogularis)

Georgetown, Northern Queensland, 30 September 2009

94328 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Blue-faced Honeyeater](#)].

Black-chinned Honeyeater (Melithreptus gularis)

Uncommon and possibly nomadic in drier parts of the region. Sometimes turns up in Townsville district.

See: [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Black-chinned Honeyeater (Melithreptus gularis gularis)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 12 July 2008

80086 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The nominate race (above) occurs in eastern and southeastern Australia; it has turquoise blue eye-crescent and yellow-olive back. Race *laetior* - the 'Golden-backed Honeyeater' - below occurs in northwestern and western Australia; it has yellow-green eye-crescent and golden-olive back. There is a broad zone of intergradation between the two forms in central and northeastern Queensland.



Black-chinned Honeyeater (Melithreptus gularis laetior)

The Kimberleys, NW Western Australia, 12 September 2004

10065 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-chinned Honeyeater](#)].

White-throated Honeyeater (Melithreptus albogularis)

Common resident in open forest, woodlands and gardens, wherever there are flowering eucalypts.

[Alligator Creek](#), [Wallaman Falls](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Tinaroo](#), [Davies Creek National Park](#) and [Grandis Forest](#).



White-throated Honeyeater (Melithreptus albogularis albogularis)

Keep River, Northern Territory, 20 September 2009

93697 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of northern Australia, above, extends as far east as the Mitchell and Burdekin River catchments watershed - corresponding approximately to the Kennedy Highway through the Atherton Tableland - where it is replaced by the southern race *inopinatus* below which is larger and has duller, less yellow, more citrine upperparts.



White-throated Honeyeater (Melithreptus albogularis inopinatus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 1 October 2003

02749 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-throated Honeyeater](http://birdway.com.au/White-throated%20Honeyeater)].

White-naped Honeyeater (Melithreptus lunatus)

Replaces the White-throated Honeyeater in higher wetter parts of the range, in wet sclerophyll and swamp woodland.

See: [Grandis Forest](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).



White-naped Honeyeater (Melithreptus lunatus)

Paluma District, Northeastern Queensland, 3 June 2005

15892 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race occurs in eastern Australia including isolated population in northeastern Queensland (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: White-naped Honeyeater](#)].

Eastern Spinebill (Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris)

Common in highlands 350-1500m in rainforest edges, secondary growth and adjacent open forest.



Eastern Spinebill (Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris cairnsensis)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 7 October 2013

155973 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Queensland race *cairnsensis* (above) has paler, less rufous nape and throat patch.

More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Spinebill](#)].

Pied Honeyeater (Certhionyx variegatus)

Rare east of the Dividing Range: one record Townsville Common 2004, another in Cairns 2015.



Pied Honeyeater (Certhionyx variegatus)

Bowra, Southwestern Queensland, 6 November 2008

82617 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Rufous-throated Honeyeater (Conopophila rufogularis)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon in southern parts of this region but usually seen near [Giru](#), [Toonpan](#), [Ross River](#) and [The Orient](#). Common near [Mareeba](#) and further north and west.



Rufous-throated Honeyeater (Conopophila rufogularis)

Tyto Wetlands, Ingham, Northeastern Queensland, 25 March 2005

13743 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Rufous-throated Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Brown-backed Honeyeater (Ramsayornis modestus)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident/migrant of coastal lowlands in woodland, melaleuca woodland and adjacent gardens and mangroves. Very rare on the Tableland but occurs at Abattoir Swamp, Julatten.

See: [Townsville Common](#), [Ross River](#), [Murray Falls](#) and [Centenary Lakes](#).



Brown-backed Honeyeater (Ramsayornis modestus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 12 February 2012

129516 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown-backed Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Bar-breasted Honeyeater (Ramsayornis fasciatus)

Species of Special Interest. Rare. Usually seen only in melaleuca woodland south of Townsville, at [Toonpan](#) and west of the Tablelands near [Rocky Creek](#) and [Mt Carbine](#).



Bar-breasted Honeyeater (Ramsayornis fasciatus)

Mount Carbine, Northeastern Queensland, 11 June 2006

34712 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Bar-breasted Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Crimson Chat (Epthianura tricolor)

Rare east of the Dividing Range: a few records from Townsville district and Mareeba.



Crimson Chat (Epthianura tricolor)

Bowra, Southwestern Queensland, 7 November 2008

83110 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Crimson Chat](#)].

Monotypic.

Orange Chat (Epthianura aurifrons)

Rare vagrant. Small flock at Blakeys Crossing (see map in [About Townsville](#)) 1985.



Orange Chat (Epthianura aurifrons)

Old Birdsville Track, Northeastern South Australia, 20 September 2006

42427 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Orange Chat](#)].

Monotypic.

White-gaped Honeyeater (Stomiopera unicolor)

Species of Special Interest. Locally common in some coastal suburbs of Townsville, and in gallery forest and adjacent woodland south of the city. Try [Ross River](#). Rare visitor elsewhere on lowlands and to the drier parts of the Tableland and McLeod River north of [Mt Carbine](#).



White-gaped Honeyeater (Stomiopera unicolor)

Mary River, Northern Territory, 6 September 2009

91510 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-gaped Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Yellow Honeyeater (Stomiopera flava)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident in open woodland and urban gardens in the drier lowland regions.

See: [Ross River](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#), [Centenary Lakes](#), [Tinaroo](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Yellow Honeyeater (Stomiopera flava addenda)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 18 October 2010

81114 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern Queensland nominate race replaced south and east of Burdekin-Lynd Divide (which corresponds approximately to Kennedy Highway between Mt Garnet and Hughenden) by race *addenda* (above) which has duller olive upperparts, faint grey-olive wash on breast and faint streaking on flanks. Location of border or zone of transition on coast between Cairns and Townsville is uncertain.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow Honeyeater](#)].

Lewin's Honeyeater (Meliphaga lewinii)

Plentiful resident in most upland areas, with some migration to lowlands during winter. Found in rainforest, secondary growth, wet sclerophyll forests and gardens.

See: [Alligator Creek](#).



Lewin's Honeyeater (Meliphaga lewinii mab)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 4 March 2011

115082 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *mab* of eastern and northeastern Queensland (above) is smaller and paler than nominate race of NSW and Victoria, with yellower wash on belly.

Distinguish from similar Yellow-spotted and Graceful Honeyeaters by larger size, face grey between ear spot and eye, gape-stripe paler than ear spot, faintly streaked underparts, and call consisting of a series of sharp staccato notes.

More photos at [[Birdway: Lewin's Honeyeater](#)].

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater (Meliphaga notata)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident in the wetter coastal lowlands gallery forest, rainforest edges, mangroves and gardens; scarce above 600m and in drier vine scrubs.

See: [Murray Falls](#), [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#) and [Goldsborough Valley](#).



Yellow-spotted Honeyeater (Meliphaga notata mixta)

Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 1 April 2010

99452 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race occurs in Cape York. Race *mixta* (above) ranges from Cooktown to just south of Townsville (Mt Elliot and Haughton River). It is smaller and darker with less mottled underparts.

The Yellow-spotted occupies the same habitat as similar Graceful Honeyeater. Differentiate from Graceful Honeyeater by yellow gape, heavier, more solid appearance, and call consisting of a series of loud, slowly descending notes.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-spotted Honeyeater](#)].

Graceful Honeyeater (Meliphaga gracilis)

Species of Special Interest. Locally common in coastal lowlands north of Rollingstone in gallery rainforest, edges and secondary growth, rich open forest and mangroves. Uncommon above 450m.

See: [Little Crystal Creek](#), [Five Mile Creek Swimming Hole](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#), the 'Jubilee Highway' and [Goldsborough Valley](#).



Graceful Honeyeater (Meliphaga gracilis imitatrix)

Cardwell, Northeastern Queensland, 13 April 2008

65359 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race occurs in New Guinea and Cape York. Northeastern Queensland race *imitatrix* (above) ranges from Cooktown to Halifax Bay and Paluma Range. It is darker overall and has yellower throat.

Differentiate from Yellow-spotted Honeyeater by finer bill with decurved lower mandible, orange-yellow gape, more active behaviour, and sharp 'plik' call.

More photos at [[Birdway: Graceful Honeyeater](#)].

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (Acanthagenys rufogularis)

Very rare in drier southwest of region.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (Acanthagenys rufogularis)

Gluepot, South Australia, 21 April 2010

89188 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Bridled Honeyeater (Bolemoreus frenatus)

Endemic Species. Common resident of rainforest and adjacent open forests above 450m. In winter some birds move to lower altitudes.

See: the [Grandis Forest](#), [Murray Falls](#) and [The Crater National Park](#).



Bridled Honeyeater (Bolemoreus frenatus)

Lake Eacham, Northeastern Queensland, 8 March 2006

31215 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Bridled Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Singing Honeyeater (Gavicalis virescens)

Vagrant with very few records on the coast. Sometimes seen on the [Inland Route to Paluma](#); commoner further west, e.g. [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Singing Honeyeater (Gavicalis virescens sonorus)

White Mountains, NE Queensland, 10 June 2018

188469 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The nominate race occurs in southwestern Australia. Two races occur in Queensland. Race *sonorus* (above) of eastern Queensland (and eastern and southeastern Australia generally) has, compared with the nominate race, grey-brown rather than olive-brown upperparts, broader black stripe on head and neck, no yellow wash on throat, and less dense streaks on underparts. Race *forresti* (below) of western Queensland and central and western Australia is smaller than *sonorus*, and even paler overall. It has cream-coloured, unstreaked chin and pale streaks on underparts.



Singing Honeyeater (Gavicalis virescens forresti)

Yelvertoft Thornton Road, NW Queensland, 21 July 2008

80557 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Singing Honeyeater](#)].

Varied Honeyeater (Gavicalis versicolor)

Species of Special Interest. Resident in some mangroves and adjacent coastal scrubs and gardens from [Townsville](#) north. Once considered a subspecies of the Mangrove Honeyeater. A hybrid population occurs near Ingham.

See: [Bushland Beach](#), [Dungeness](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Varied Honeyeater (Gavicalis versicolor)

Cardwell, Northeastern Queensland, 3 April 2010

99775 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

Nominate race of northeastern Queensland and southern New Guinea (above) is yellower than race *sonoroides* of northern New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Varied Honeyeater](#)].

Mangrove Honeyeater (Gavicalis fasciogularis)

Common resident in Grey Mangroves (*Avicennia*) and adjacent coastal scrubs and gardens south of Townsville such as near the harbour on [Molongle Creek](#), near the boat ramp on [Morris Creek](#) and near [Cungulla](#).



Mangrove Honeyeater (Gavicalis fasciogularis)

Morris Creek, Giru District, Northeastern Queensland, 5 April 2006

32136 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Mangrove Honeyeater](#)].

Monotypic.

Fuscous Honeyeater (Ptilotula fuscus)

Uncommon in open forests west of Townsville at the base of [Hervey Range](#) and on the western edge of the Tableland.

See: [Murray Falls](#) and [Kaban area](#).



Fuscous Honeyeater (Ptilotula fuscus subgermanus)

Townsville District, NE Queensland, 18 October 2008

81146 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The tropical Queensland race *subgermanus* (above) has a yellow wash on the head and throat and needs to be differentiated from the Yellow-tinted Honeyeater.

More photos at [[Birdway: Fuscus Honeyeater](#)].

White-plumed Honeyeater (Ptilotula penicillatus)

Common in open forest near water in inland Queensland, e.g. [Moorrinya National Park](#).



White-plumed Honeyeater (Ptilotula penicillatus leilavalensis)

Mount Isa, NW Queensland, 10 May 2018

187409 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The central Australian race *leilavalensis* (above) is paler and yellower than the nominate race of southeastern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-plumed Honeyeater](#)].

Yellow-faced Honeyeater (Caligavis chrysops)

Locally common in open forest, in foothills and highlands. Numbers increase in winter.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Yellow-faced Honeyeater (Caligavis chrysops)

Puzzle Creek, Paluma District, NE Queensland, 25 May 2005

15566 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *barroni* is resident in highlands from Clarke Range near Mackay north to near Cooktown. It is slightly smaller and paler than southern nominate race, which is a winter migrant.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-faced Honeyeater](#)].

Noisy Miner (Manorina melanocephala)

Uncommon to Common. Small populations in widely scattered parts of the region in drier areas. More common on western edge of the Tableland between Herberton and Ravenshoe - see map of the Atherton Tableland and [Kaban area](#) - and along the [Inland Route to Paluma](#).



Noisy Miner (Manorina melanocephala)

Cronulla, New South Wales, 26 December 2005

28393 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Compared with the nominate race of southeastern Australia (above), birds in eastern Australia get progressively paler upperparts northwards, lack lemon yellow wash and have more contrasting shades of grey. They are sometimes divided into race *lepidota* south of Townsville (black malar stripe) and *tinaniota* north of Townsville (white malar stripe).

More photos at [[Birdway: Noisy Miner](#)].

Yellow-throated Miner (Manorina flavigula)

Resident near [Bowen](#), between Ayr and Townsville - see [map of Bowen to Townsville](#) - in the outer suburbs of Townsville, the drier country further south and west, and along [the inland route to Paluma](#).



Yellow-throated Miner (Manorina flavigula)

Torrens Creek-Aramac, Northeastern Queensland, 28 June 2009

90584 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-throated Miner](#)].

Pardalotidae - Pardalotes

Links to Species

- [Spotted Pardalote](#)
- [Red-browed Pardalote](#)
- [Striated Pardalote](#)

Spotted Pardalote (Pardalotus punctatus)

Locally common resident at higher altitudes in wet sclerophyll, especially in [Eucalyptus grandis](#) forest and casuarinas.



Spotted Pardalote (Pardalotus punctatus)

Scheyville, New South Wales, 9 October 2008

80735 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Queensland race *millitaris* is similar to red-rumped nominate race (above) but spots on upperparts are paler.

More photos at [[Birdway: Spotted Pardalote](#)].

Red-browed Pardalote (Pardalotus rubricatus)

Very rare visitor to woodland in drier parts of the Tableland and west of Townsville.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Red-browed Pardalote (Pardalotus rubricatus)

Mt Isa-Camooweal, NW Queensland, 12 May 2018

187611 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The widespread nominate race (above) is replaced on Cape York from the Mitchell River Catchment northwards by *yorki*. It has darker more strongly patterned upperparts, and more intense yellow rump and wingbar.

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-browed Pardalote](#)].

Striated Pardalote (Pardalotus striatus)

The black-headed form of the Striated Pardalote, *melanocephalus*, is common in tall open eucalypt forests and woodland, e.g. [the Inland Route to Paluma](#).



Striated Pardalote (Pardalotus striatus melanocephalus)

Charters Towers, Northeastern Queensland, 24 May 2009

90060 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *melanocephalus* - 'Black-headed Pardalote' - (above) resides in northeastern Queensland and *uropygialis* on Cape York and in northwestern Queensland. *Uropygialis* (below) also has black head, but rump is buffish yellow rather than light brown.



Striated Pardalote (Pardalotus striatus uropygialis)

Cape York, Northern Queensland, 6 June 2010

105083 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Striated Pardalote](#)].

Acanthizidae - Thornbills and Gerygones

Links to Species

- [Fernwren](#)
- [Brown Gerygone](#)
- [Fairy Gerygone](#)
- [White-throated Gerygone](#)
- [Large-billed Gerygone](#)
- [Mangrove Gerygone](#)
- [Western Gerygone](#)
- [Weebill](#)
- [Yellow-throated Scrubwren](#)
- [Atherton Scrubwren](#)
- [White-browed Scrubwren](#)
- [Large-billed Scrubwren](#)
- [Yellow-rumped Thornbill](#)
- [Yellow Thornbill](#)
- [Mountain Thornbill](#)
- [Buff-rumped Thornbill](#)

Fernwren (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*)

Endemic Species. Common in upland rainforests but comes down to 350m in wettest parts of the area, e.g. seaward face of near-coastal mountains. Forages unobtrusively on the forest floor. Listen for high-pitched, drawn-out, 'Morse-code' notes.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Birthday Creek Falls](#), [Wongabel State Forest](#), [The Crater National Park](#), [Longlands Gap](#) and [Mount Lewis National Park](#).



Fernwren (Oreoscopus gutturalis)

Mount Lewis, Northeastern Queensland, 28 January 2008

62678 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Fernwren](#)].

Monotypic.

Brown Gerygone (Gerygone mouki)

Abundant in most rainforests above 250m. Often in small groups, hunting insects at all levels.



Brown Gerygone (Gerygone mouki)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 19 March 2010

99188 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of northeastern Queensland (above) has less rufous upperparts and less buff flanks than more widespread eastern Australian race *richmondi*. Its twittering song has a more ascending quality.

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Gerygone](#)].

Fairy Gerygone (Gerygone palpebrosa)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common, usually in family parties, in coastal lowlands in coastal scrubs and mangroves, gallery forests and rainforest edges. Less common on the Tableland.

See: [Toomulla Beach](#), [Bluewater Forest](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Innisfail](#), [Coquette Point](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Fairy Gerygone (Gerygone palpebrosa personata)

Cape York, Northern Queensland, 4 June 2010

104949 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The two Australian races were originally treated as separate species as the adult males are strikingly different: the 'Black-throated Gerygone' - *personata* - of northern Queensland (above); the pale-throated 'Fairy Gerygone' - *flavida* - (below) of eastern Queensland. They intergrade between Cairns and Ingham.



Fairy Gerygone (Gerygone palpebrosa flavida)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 26 November 2011

121633 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Fairy Gerygone](#)].

White-throated Gerygone (Gerygone olivacea)

Moderately common resident in drier woodland, often near water. Numbers increase in the winter.



White-throated Gerygone (*Gerygone olivacea olivacea*)

White Mountains, NE Queensland, 8 June 2009

90369 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Slightly larger nominate race (above) is resident in northeastern Queensland and a winter visitor from southeastern Australia. Race *cinerascens* (below) of Cape York and southeastern New Guinea has paler, greyer upperparts and smaller white spots on tail. Race *rogersi* occurs in northern Australia west of Karumba. It is also paler above with smaller white spots but has more intense yellow underparts.



White-throated Gerygone (*Gerygone olivacea cinerascens*)

Karumba, NW Queensland, 28 September 2009

93979 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-throated Gerygone](#)].

Large-billed Gerygone (Gerygone magnirostris)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common resident of lowland and gallery forest, along streams and also in mangroves and melaleuca swamps.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Ross River](#), [Bushland Beach](#), [Jourama Falls](#), [Cardwell](#), [Innisfail](#), [Coquette Point](#), [Centenary Lakes](#), the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport and [Daintree River](#).



Large-billed Gerygone (Gerygone magnirostris cairnsensis)

Daintree, NE Queensland, 16 September 2008

80572 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local race *cairnsensis* (above) occurs on Cape York and along the northeastern coast south to Mackay. Slightly smaller than nominate race of coastal Northern Territory and northern Western Australia, it has warmer toned upperparts and cinnamon toned breast and flanks.

More photos at [[Birdway: Large-billed Gerygone](#)].

Mangrove Gerygone (Gerygone levigaster)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common in mangroves and adjacent thickets and scrubs from Cardwell south.

See: [Molongle Creek](#), [Magnetic Island](#), [Ross River](#), [Bushland Beach](#) and [Cardwell](#).



Mangrove Gerygone (Gerygone levigaster cantator)

Ross River, Townsville, NE Queensland, 11 September 2007

58797 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race ranges along the north coast of Australia east to Cape York; eastern Australian race *cantator* (above) occurs south of Cardwell and has slightly longer wings and tail and darker upperparts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Mangrove Gerygone](#)].

Western Gerygone (Gerygone fusca)

Nomadic: very rare in western parts of the region. Scattered records in dry country.

Eastern race *exsul* is paler than nominate race of southwestern Australia and has less white in tail.

Weebill (Smicrornis brevirostris)

Resident in woodland in drier areas of the region - see [The Inland Route to Paluma](#) and [Granite Gorge](#). Seldom near the coast.



Weebill (Smicrornis brevirostris flavescens)

White Mountains, NW Queensland, 10 June 2018

188491 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *flavescens* (above) of northern inland Australia has yellower underparts than nominate race of eastern and southern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Weebill](#)].

Yellow-throated Scrubwren (Sericornis citreogularis)

Common resident in upland rainforest, 550-1000m.

See: [Millaa Millaa](#).



Yellow-throated Scrubwren (Sericornis citreogularis cairnsi)

Millaa Millaa Falls, Northeastern Queensland, 3 December 2013

156402 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Isolated northeastern Queensland race *cairnsi* (above) occurs in highlands from Cooktown to Townsville and inland to Atherton and Ravenshoe. It is 10 per cent smaller than nominate race, has shorter tail, darker upperparts, and different calls. Song is a slower, less melodious series: 'tee too weet too whiddy teet' and, unlike nominate race, *cairnsi* does not appear to mimic other species. It may prove to be a separate species.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-throated Scrubwren](#)].

Atherton Scrubwren (Sericornis keri)

Endemic Species. Fairly common resident of rainforest from 600-1500m, usually solitary and seen feeding on or near the forest floor. Apparently absent from areas of rainforest in the southern Wet Tropics, though there are recent records from Paluma. Try [The Crater](#), [Wongabel State Forest](#) and [Mt Lewis](#).



Atherton Scrubwren (Sericornis keri)

Lake Tinaroo, NE Queensland, 5 May 2015

164990 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Atherton Scrubwren](#)].

Monotypic.

White-browed Scrubwren (Sericornis frontalis)

Moderately common above 600m, in rainforest edges, small patches, regrowth, lantana, gallery forest and dry scrubs.



White-browed Scrubwren (Sericornis frontalis laevigaster)

Townsville District, NE Queensland, 18 October 2008

81058 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Local race *laevigaster* (above) ranges from Cairns and Atherton Tableland to northeastern NSW. Male has pale, greyer upperparts, pale cream underparts, unstreaked throat and breast, and no sub-orbital white line.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-browed Scrubwren](#)].

Large-billed Scrubwren (Sericornis magnirostris)

Common in rainforest to 750m, often in small parties, feeding in trees and vines 3-17m above the forest floor.

See: [Paluma](#) and [Broadwater Creek](#).



Large-billed Scrubwren (Sericornis magnirostris viridior)

Cassowary House, Kuranda, Northeastern Queensland, 5 March 2009 85209 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Queensland race *viridior* (above) has longer wings and shorter tail, paler less olive upperparts, more buff underparts and throat, and darker flanks than nominate race. It ranges from Rossville, south of Cooktown, to Paluma.

More photos at [[Birdway: Large-billed Scrubwren](#)].

Yellow-rumped Thornbill (Acanthiza chrysorrhoa)

Rare east of Mt Isa and north of Hughenden. Mainly in dry areas, such as the [Inland Route to Paluma](#).



Yellow-rumped Thornbill (Acanthiza chrysorrhoa leighi)

Shellharbour, New South Wales, 24 November 2006

43059 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *normantoni* of Queensland and central Australia has light grey nape with dark mottling, brighter olive rump, brighter yellow upper-tail coverts and mostly yellow underparts compared with race *leighi* (above) of southern Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Nominate race occurs in Western Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-rumped Thornbill](#)].

Yellow Thornbill (Acanthiza nana)

Resident in open forest and casuarinas on the western edge of the Tableland. Try the [Kaban](#) district between Herberton and Ravenshoe - see the Map of the Atherton Tableland.



Yellow Thornbill (Acanthiza nana)

Yarrara, Victoria, 17 April 2009

88267 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Isolated northeastern Queensland race *flava* is yellower than other races and care should be taken to distinguish it from the local race of the [Buff-rumped Thornbill](#). Calls are different. Yellow Thornbill has pale 'shaving-brush' streaks on ear coverts, orange wash on breast, and brown eyes with a white eye-ring. Photo shows race *modesta* of inland eastern and southeastern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow Thornbill](#)].

Mountain Thornbill (Acanthiza katherina)

[Endemic Species](#). Resident in pairs and small groups in upland rainforest, 450-1600m.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#) and [Mt Lewis](#).



Mountain Thornbill (Acanthiza katherina)

Mount Lewis, Northeastern Queensland, 25 January 2009

84556 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Mountain Thornbill](#)].

Monotypic.

Buff-rumped Thornbill (Acanthiza reguloides)

Uncommon on western edge of the Tableland south to Hervey Range on the [Inland Route to Paluma](#), in open forest and casuarina thickets.



Buff-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza reguloides*)

Long Forest, Victoria, 5 April 2009

86039 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The northeastern Queensland race, *squamata*, has greener upperparts and yellower underparts than the nominate race (above) of eastern and southern Australia. Care should be taken to distinguish it from the local race of the [Yellow Thornbill](#). Calls are different. Buff-rumped Thornbill has pale lemon throat, buff rather than olive-yellow rump, pale scalloping on brownish forehead, and dark eye-ring. Adults have pale iris but note that juveniles have dark eyes and race *squamata* is, like Yellow Thornbill, more arboreal than southern races.

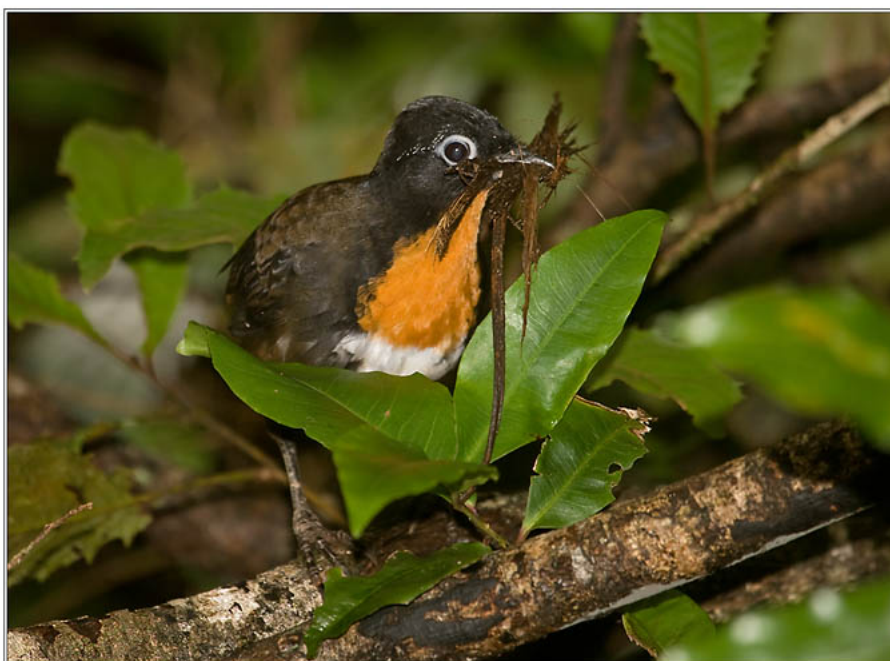
More photos at [[Birdway: Buff-rumped Thornbill](#)].

Orthonychidae - Logrunners

Chowchilla (Orthonyx spaldingii)

Endemic Species. Plentiful resident in upland rainforest, usually seen in small groups. Less common in the wettest adjoining lowland forest, e.g. near Tully ([Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#)). Very vocal during the early morning! Usually seen beside the walking tracks at [Paluma](#) and [The Crater](#).

See also: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Birthday Creek Falls](#), [Wallaman Falls](#), [Longlands Gap](#) and [Palmerston Section](#), [Wooroonooran National Park](#).



Female Chowchilla (Orthonyx spaldingii)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 23 April 2010

100288 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Two races in northeastern Queensland: nominate (both photos) from Paluma Range to about the Daintree River, in which the black crown and nape are clearly different from the brown mantle; smaller and darker *melasmenus* between the Daintree and just south of Cooktown has no clear distinction between nape and mantle.



Male Chowchilla (Orthonyx spaldingii)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 23 April 2010

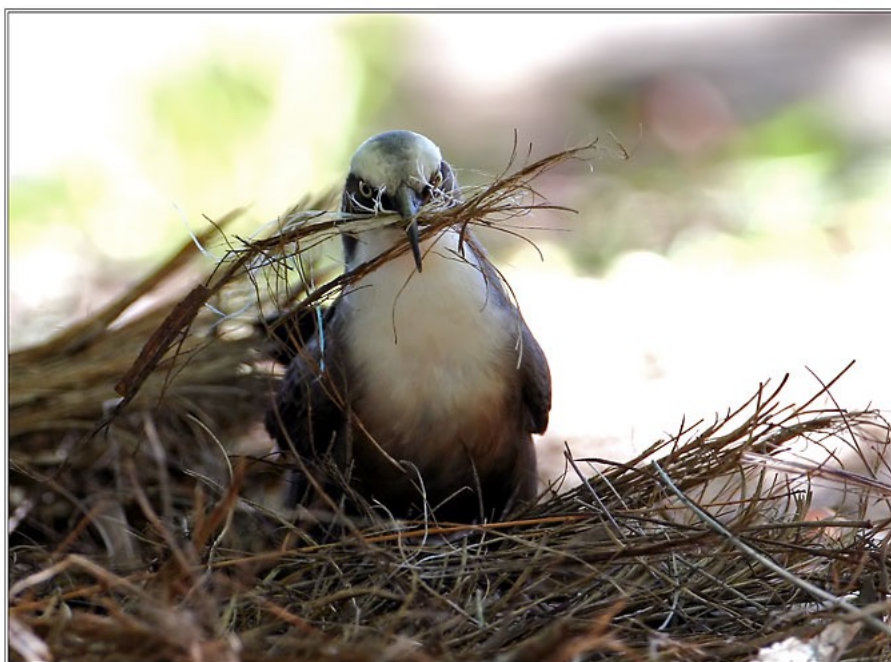
100260 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Chowchilla](#)].

Pomatostomidae - Australian Babblers

Grey-crowned Babbler (Pomatostomus temporalis)

Generally scarce in woodland in the drier parts of the region especially near settlement, but common in woodland north-west of Mareeba ([Lake Mitchell](#), [Mary Farms-Mt Carbine](#) and [Cumberland Dam, Georgetown](#)) and west of Townsville (the [Inland Route to Paluma](#)).



Grey-crowned Babbler (Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis)

Belyando Crossing, Central Queensland, 3 March 2006

30877 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

White-breasted nominate race (above) resides in eastern Australia and southern New Guinea; rufous-breasted race *rubeculus* (below) occurs in central and western Australia.



Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis rubeculus*)

Mount Isa, NW Queensland, 14 September 2006

41447 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey-crowned Babbler](#)].

Neosittidae - Sittellas

Varied Sittella (Daphoenositta chrysoptera)

Nomadic flocks sometimes seen in tall eucalypt woodland and open forest in drier parts of the region. Scarce in coastal lowlands.

See [Kaban Area](#), [Rocky Creek](#) and [Granite Gorge](#).



Female Varied Sittella (Daphoenositta chrysoptera striata)

Pentland - Torrens Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 8 June 2009

90285 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The 'Striated Sittella', race *striata*, occurs on Cape York and in northeastern Queensland as far south as Townsville-Charters Towers, where it merges with the 'White-headed Sittella' race *leucocephala* of eastern Queensland and northeastern NSW.



Male Varied Sittella (Daphoenositta chrysoptera striata)

White Mountains, Northeastern Queensland, 8 June 2009 90334 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Varied Sittella](#)].

Campepagidae - Cuckoo-shrikes and Trillers

Links to Species

- [Ground Cuckoo-shrike](#)
- [Barred Cuckoo-shrike](#)
- [Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike](#)
- [White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike](#)
- [Cicadabird](#)
- [White-winged Triller](#)
- [Varied Triller](#)

Ground Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina maxima)

Nomadic. Occasionally visits the western limits of this region.

See: [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#).



Ground Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina maxima)

Torrens Creek, NE Queensland, 29 September 2009

94297 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Ground Cuckoo-shrike](#)].

Monotypic.

Barred Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina lineata)

Species of Special Interest. Common nomad in upland and lowland rainforest and sometimes wet sclerophyll. Follows fruiting trees.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Little Crystal Creek](#), [Lake Morris](#).



Barred Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina lineata)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 27 November 2004

11438 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Australia; other races in New Guinea and islands to its east vary in size and amount of barring.

More photos at [[Birdway: Barred Cuckoo-shrike](#)].

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina novaehollandiae)

Widespread and common in woodland, wooded parks and gardens. Migrant flocks, with some immatures, increased numbers in the dry season.

See: [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina novaehollandiae melanops)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 11 October 2006

42812 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The widespread mainland race *melanops* (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland. It has a longer bill than the nominate race of southeastern Australia and Tasmania.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike](#)].

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina papuensis)

Fairly common in woodland, rainforest edges, mangroves, gallery forests and urban areas throughout the region.

See: [Centenary Lakes](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina papuensis oriomo x artamoides)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 22 December 2007

61151 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern small race *oriomo* has pale head, white belly and grey wash on breast and neck and is resident in southern New Guinea and Cape York. Race *artamoides* is larger and darker than *oriomo* and females retain faint barring on breast in adult plumage. It is resident in most of Queensland and intergrades with *oriomo* (above) between Cooktown and the Burdekin River. The even larger and darker southeastern Australian race *robusta* moves north in winter and has been recorded in Townsville in autumn. Race *robusta* has a dark morph in which the males have black head and breast and black scaling on upper breast (below).



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina papuensis robusta)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 24 May 2002

10413 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike](#)].

Cicadabird (Coracina tenuirostris)

Moderately common summer visitor to vine thickets, rainforest along creeks, woodland and mangrove edges. Some birds may be resident.

See: [Kuranda](#).



Male Cicadabird (Coracina tenuirostris)

Jourama Falls, Northeastern Queensland, 20 April 2008 65555 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Usually split into two races in Australia: the migratory nominate race is a summer visitor to eastern and southern Australia from north Queensland and/or New Guinea; the resident northern race *melvillensis* ranges from the Kimberley in WA to Cape York. Male *melvillensis* differs from male nominate (above) in that black on face does not extend to throat. Female *melvillensis* has greyish-fawn rather than ashy-brown upperparts, and creamy-white underparts with heavy dusky barring rather than fawn-buff with narrow blackish barring.



Female Cicadabird (Coracina tenuirostris)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 14 December 2003

03913 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

These races have quite different types of calls: the nominate race has a rapid cicada-like 'tzeet-tzeet-tzeet', repeated 8-35 times; *melvillensis* a slow rasping 'trzeep-trzeep-trzeep' repeated 10-20 times. A third distinct type with a bell-like ringing 'zeep-zeep-zeep' faster than that of *melvillensis* is heard in the rainforests and riparian forests of northeastern Queensland. The racial identity of the birds making this type is unknown.

More photos at [[Birdway: Cicadabird](#)].

White-winged Triller (Lalage tricolor)

Occurs in open woodland in drier parts of the Tableland ([Mareeba](#) and [Lake Mitchell](#)) and around Townsville (the [Inland Route to Paluma](#)), August-December. Uncommon in lowlands but some are present all year.

See also: [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#).



White-winged Triller (Lalage tricolor)

Mornington, The Kimberleys, NW Western Australia, 12 September 2004

10018 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-winged Triller](#)].

Monotypic.

Varied Triller (Lalage leucomela)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident in vine thickets, mangroves, rainforest, wet sclerophyll and woodland.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Toomulla Beach](#) and [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#).



Male Varied Triller (Lalage leucomela)

Alligator Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 4 February 2008 62994 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above and below) extends north to about Cairns gradually intergrading with the Cape York race *yorki*. *Yorki* males have unbarred underparts and pale rather than intense cinnamon under-tail coverts; females are dusky-grey rather than ashy-brown, above and the barred underparts have a greyish-white rather than fawn-buff background.



Female Varied Triller (Lalage leucomela)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 9 April 2006

32385 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Varied Triller](#)].

Pachycephalidae - Whistlers, Shrike-thrushes and allies

Links to Species

- [Grey Whistler](#)
- [Rufous Whistler](#)
- [White-breasted Whistler](#)
- [Golden Whistler](#)
- [Mangrove Golden Whistler](#)
- [Little Shrike-thrush](#)
- [Bower's Shrike-thrush](#)
- [Grey Shrike-thrush](#)
- [Sandstone Shrike-thrush](#)

Grey Whistler (Pachycephala simplex)

Species of Special Interest. Fairly common resident of lowland rainforest and gallery forest. Occasionally recorded at higher altitudes. Try [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#), Mission Beach (e.g. [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#)) and [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#).



Grey Whistler (Pachycephala simplex peninsulae)

Kingfisher Park, Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 12 June 2006

34839 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern Queensland race *peninsulae* (above) has a yellowish wash on underparts and is greyer than the browner nominate race of the Northern Territory. The races used to be treated as different species - Grey and Brown Whistlers respectively.

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Whistler](#)].

Rufous Whistler (Pachycephala rufiventris)

Common resident/migrant of open forests and woodland particularly in winter, when many birds in immature plumage are seen.

See: [Magnetic Island](#).



Rufous Whistler (Pachycephala rufiventris)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 13 July 2005

17214 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland north to Cairns and the Atherton Tableland. Further north and west it is replaced by race *pallida*. Male *pallida* (below) has much paler breast; grey rather than black lores, eye-stripe and sides of neck. Female *pallida* lacks streaks on flanks and belly.



Rufous Whistler (Pachycephala rufiventris pallida)

Mitchell River Catchment, Northern Queensland, 27 January 2008

62411 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Rufous Whistler](#)].

White-breasted Whistler (Pachycephala lanioides)

Species of Special Interest. Found in mangroves along the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, e.g. [Karumba](#).



Male White-breasted Whistler (Pachycephala lanioides fretorum)

Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria, 29 September 2009

94059 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *fretorum* is found in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Northern Territory; male *fretorum* is slightly smaller than the nominate race, has narrower chestnut breast-

band and collar and broader black breast band; female plumage like that of nominate race of northwestern Western Australia.



Female White-breasted Whistler (Pachycephala lanioides fretorum)
Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria, 29 September 2009 94016 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-breasted Whistler](#)].

Golden Whistler (Pachycephala pectoralis)

Common resident in upland rainforest and open forest, with some immatures moving to lower altitudes in winter.



Golden Whistler (Pachycephala pectoralis)
Eungella, Eastern Queensland, 20 April 2012 141764 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *queenslandica* of northeastern Queensland is no longer recognised and has been merged with nominate race of eastern Australia (above).

More photos at [[Birdway: Golden Whistler](#)].

Mangrove Golden Whistler (Pachycephala melanura)

Very rare. Reported from [Ayr](#) and [Hinchinbrook Channel](#). More likely to be seen in [Normanton/Karumba](#).



Immature Mangrove Golden Whistler (Pachycephala melanura robusta)
Adelaide River, Northern Territory, 5 September 2009 91461 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern and eastern Australian race *robusta* (above) occurs in Queensland and Northern Territory; nominate race in Western Australia. Male *robusta* has broader, yellow hind-neck collar and broader black breast-band, yellow-tipped black rather than yellow-tipped brownish grey thighs; female has olive rather than grey-brown upperparts, and more extensive yellow on lower breast and belly.

More photos at [[Birdway: Mangrove Golden Whistler](#)].

Little Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla megarhyncha)

Common resident in mangroves, gallery forests, vine scrubs and rainforests, especially edges and secondary growth.

See: [Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#), [Magnetic Island](#), [Jourama Falls](#), [Five Mile Creek Swimming Hole](#), [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#) and [Clump Mountain National Park](#).



Little Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla megarhyncha normani)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 4 July 2005

16805 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Twenty eight races recognised of which seven occur in Australia. Race *normani* (above) resides on Cape York, *griseata* in northeastern Queensland between Cooktown and Townsville, and *synaptica* south of Townsville. All three are relatively small: *normani* is khaki coloured and lacks streaks on breast; *griseata* is more rufous with rufous-edged flight feathers and indistinct breast streaks; *synaptica* is greyish-olive with brown wash and distinct streaks on breast.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Shrike-thrush](#)].

Bower's Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla boweri)

Endemic Species. Resident of upland rainforests. There is some altitudinal movement to lowland rainforest in winter.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Lake Eacham](#), [Mobo Creek Crater Wongabel State Forest](#) and [Millaa Millaa](#).



Bower's Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla boweri)

Mobo Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 4 December 2003 156495 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway Bower's Shrike-thrush](#)].

Monotypic.

Grey Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla harmonica)

Common at higher altitudes throughout the area in dry woodland, wet sclerophyll and casuarina thickets, e.g. [Grandis Forest](#), [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Immature Grey Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla harmonica harmonica)

Grandis Forest, Paluma District, NE Queensland, 23 April 2010

100316 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland as far north as at least Paluma Range, *superciliosa* on Cape York at least as far south as the northern part

of the Atherton Tableland, and *brunnea* in northwestern Queensland.



Grey Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla harmonica superciliosa)

Davis Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 26 December 2013

156873 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *superciliosa* (above) is greyer than nominate and has indistinct white *supercilium* while *brunnea* is larger, has longer tail and paler brown plumage.

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Shrike-thrush](#)].

Sandstone Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla woodwardi)

Occurs in sandstone gorges and escarpments in Northern Australia east to far northwestern Queensland, e.g. [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Sandstone Shrike-thrush (Colluricincla woodwardi)

© Ben Blewitt: reproduced with kind permission

More photos at [[Birdway Sandstone Shrike-thrush](#)].

Monotypic.

Falcunculidae - Shriketits

Crested Shrike-tit (Falcunculus frontatus)

Uncommon resident of tall open forests in highlands usually west of the range.

See [Grandis Forest](#) and [Kaban Area](#).



Crested Shrike-tit (Falcunculus frontatus)

Grandis Forest, Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 4 May 2009

89807 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Olive-backed, yellow-bellied, nominate race (above) in eastern and southeastern Australia includes very isolated population in northeastern Queensland; yellow-olive backed, bright-yellow-bellied race *whitei* occurs in northwestern Australia; olive-backed white-bellied race *leucogaster* resides in southwest Western Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Crested Shrike-tit](#)].

Oreoicidae - Australo-Papuan Bellbirds

Crested Bellbird (Oreoica gutturalis)

Rare vagrant to drier areas of Northeastern Queensland; more common west of the Great Dividing Range.

See: [Moorrinya National Park](#).



Crested Bellbird (Oreoica gutturalis pallescens)

Mount Isa - Camooweal, Northwestern Queensland, 20 July 2008

80463 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate larger southern and eastern Australian race intergrades or intermingles with smaller paler northern and western Australian race *pallescens* (above) in the Hughenden area, where Moorrinya National Park is located.

More photos at [[Birdway: Crested Bellbird](#)].

Psophodidae - Whipbirds and Wedgebills

Eastern Whipbird (Psophodes olivaceus)

Common in rainforest, wet sclerophyll with dense undergrowth and lantana thickets along woodland streams, mostly above 300m - e.g. [Paluma](#) and [Mt Lewis](#) - but near the coast in the wetter areas.

See also: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Broadwater Creek](#).



Eastern Whipbird (Psophodes olivaceus)

Uki, New South Wales, 18 January 2017

180800 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *lateralis* of northeastern Queensland is olive-brown rather than the olive-green of the nominate race (above), and has shorter wings and tail.

More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Whipbird](#)].

Oriolidae - Orioles and Figbirds

Links to Species

- [Australasian Figbird](#)
- [Olive-backed Oriole](#)
- [Green Oriole](#)

Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*)

Mainly a common resident of coastal lowlands, but also occurs further inland in suitable habitat, such as on the Atherton Tableland. Frequents rainforest, gallery forests and deciduous vine scrubs, as well as in urban parks, gardens and streets where there are large old fig trees. Often nests colonially in trees, sometimes in the company of breeding [Helmeted Friarbird](#) and [Drongo](#).

See [About Townsville](#) and [Magnetic Island](#).



*Male Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*)*

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 8 November 2003

03341 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The nominate race, the 'Green Figbird', occurs in eastern Australia as far north as northeastern Queensland. Race *flaviventris*, the 'Yellow Figbird' resides in northern Queensland and New Guinea. The two races interbreed freely so there is a broad zone of intergradation between Prosperpine on the Whitsunday coast and Normanton on the Gulf of Carpentaria, with the underparts of the male becoming more yellow northwards.



Male Australasian Figbird (Sphecotheres vieilloti)

Julatten, Northeastern Queensland, 8 November 2003

13003 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Both of the photos of males, above, are of intermediate types, typical of those in northeastern Queensland. The first one, from near Townsville, has a grey throat, grey breast, and yellow belly; the second one, from Julatten northwest of Cairns, has underparts overall yellow, but shows traces of grey on the breast.



Female Australasian Figbird (Sphecotheres vieilloti)

Chunda Bay, Northeastern Queensland, 8 November 2003

12755 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Female plumage does not vary geographically.

More photos at [[Birdway: Australasian Figbird](http://birdway.com.au/Australasian_Figbird)].

Olive-backed Oriole (Oriolus sagittatus)

Moderately common, especially in winter, in gallery forest, deciduous vine scrubs and woodland.

See: [Wallaman Falls](#).



Olive-backed Oriole (Oriolus sagittatus sagittatus)

Port Hacking, New South Wales, 6 December 2012

151378 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern race (above) replaced on Cape York by smaller northern race *grisescens*, below. It has longer, more slender bill, and the males have much greyer plumage.



Olive-backed Oriole (Oriolus sagittatus grisescens)

Timber Creek, Northern Territory, 22 September 2009

93794 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Olive-backed Oriole](#)].

Green Oriole (Oriolus flavocinctus)

Species of Special Interest. Often called Yellow Oriole but Green Oriole is preferred to avoid confusion with the unrelated Yellow Oriole, *Icterus nigrogularis*, of South America [[Birdway: Yellow Oriole](#)]. Common in lowlands north of Ingham, and occasionally visits the Tableland and Townsville. Resident in gallery forest, rainforest edges, along streams near rainforest and mangroves.

See: [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#), [Goldsborough Valley](#), [Accommodation in Cairns](#) and [Centenary Lakes](#).



Green (Yellow) Oriole (Oriolus flavocinctus kingi)

Tyto Wetlands, Ingham, NE Queensland, 14 April 2010

99948 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Subtle regional differences are treated as races only by some authorities: *flavotinctus* on Cape York is larger and more intensely yellow than the nominate *flavocinctus* of the Northern Territory and NW Western Australia; *kingi* (above) ranging from Trinity Bay near Cairns to Halifax Bay between Ingham and Townsville is also larger than the nominate race, but paler yellow than *flavotinctus*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Green Oriole](#)].

Machaerirhynchidae - Boatbills

Yellow-breasted Boatbill (Machaerirhynchus flaviventer)

Species of Special Interest. Moderately common in rainforests and fringes, gallery forests and lantana-infested streams. More common at lower altitudes but seen regularly at [Paluma](#) and [Bluewater Forest](#).

See also: [Jourama Falls](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#), [Murray Falls](#) and [Curtain Fig National Park](#).



Yellow-breasted Boatbill (Machaerirhynchus flaviventer secundus)

Julatten, NE Queensland, 4 September 2015

167791 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

First photo shows a male, second a female.



Yellow-breasted Boatbill (*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer secundus*)
Jourama Falls, Northeastern Queensland, 20 April 2008 65499 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Queensland race *secundus* ranges from Bluewater Forest to Cooktown; males have blacker backs and brighter yellow underparts than males of nominate Cape York race, while females have barring only on sides of breast and not on belly.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow-breasted Boatbill](#)].

Artamidae - Woodswallows, Currawongs, Butcherbirds and Magpie

Links to Species

- [Pied Currawong](#)
- [Black Butcherbird](#)
- [Australian Magpie](#)
- [Pied Butcherbird](#)
- [Grey Butcherbird](#)
- [Masked Woodswallow](#)
- [White-browed Woodswallow](#)
- [Dusky Woodswallow](#)
- [Black-faced Woodswallow](#)
- [Little Woodswallow](#)
- [White-breasted Woodswallow](#)

Pied Currawong (Strepera graculina)

More common in upland areas in rainforest, open forest and deciduous vine scrub. Common resident on [Magnetic Island](#) but only occasionally on adjacent coastal lowlands.

See: [Wallaman Falls](#).



Pied Currawong (Strepera graculina robinsoni)

Paluma, NE Queensland, 28 October 2003

03051 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *robinsoni*, (above) resident on the coastal ranges between Cooktown and Townsville, is smaller than the nominate race of eastern Australia with shorter bill, shorter tail, more white on wings and base of tail, and narrower white tip to tail. Its call is more wheezing, less ringing than that of nominate race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Currawong](#)]

Black Butcherbird (Melloria quoyi)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident in rainforest, mangroves, gallery forest and swamp forest. More common at lower altitudes. Confined to mangroves south of about Ingham.

See: [Plantation Creek](#), [Bushland Beach](#), [Cardwell](#), [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#), [Lacey Creek Day-use Area](#), [Clump Mountain National Park](#), [Eubanang Swamp National Park](#), [Accommodation in Cairns](#), [Centenary Lakes](#), [Redden Island](#) and [Palmerston Section](#), [Wooroonooran National Park](#).



Black Butcherbird (Melloria quoyi rufescens)

Henrietta Creek, NE Queensland, 12 September 2008

16173 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *rufescens* of northeastern Queensland south of Cooktown is the smallest Australian race and juvenile birds, below, may be rufous-brown or blackish; race *jardini* of Cape York is intermediate in size and has blackish juveniles; the third race *spaldingi* of the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia is the largest, has longer thicker bill and blackish juveniles.



Juvenile Black Butcherbird (Melloria quoyi rufescens)

Kuranda, NE Queensland, 12 September 2008
80417_ © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black Butcherbird](#)].

Australian Magpie (Cracticus tibicen)

Moderately common resident of the Tableland, in lightly wooded country and farmland. Less common on the coast except in dry areas.



Australian Magpie (Cracticus tibicen)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 13 July 2005

17157 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate black-backed race of eastern Australia occurs in northeastern Queensland.

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Magpie](#)].

Pied Butcherbird (Cracticus nigrogularis)

Common resident of open woodland and farming areas, but rare on the coast north of Cardwell.

See: [Toonpan](#).



Pied Butcherbird (Cracticus nigrogularis)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 8 September 2002

02197 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern and eastern Australian nominate race occurs in northeastern Queensland and the southern half of Cape York. It intergrades with the northern, western and southwestern Australian race *picatus* in central northern Queensland south of the Mitchell River. Race *picatus* has broader white collar, longer bill and larger white rump than nominate race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Butcherbird](#)].

Grey Butcherbird (Cracticus torquatus)

Uncommon in open forest in drier parts of the area, e.g. [Toonpan](#), [Kaban](#) and [Ravenshoe](#).

See also: [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#).



Grey Butcherbird (Cracticus torquatus leucopterus)

Injune, Central Queensland, 17 April 2011

115254 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The small, long-tailed race *leucopterus* occurs in northeastern Queensland and most of mainland Australia except the northwest and southeast. It has a paler grey back and more white on the rump, wings and tail than other races.

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Butcherbird](#)].

Masked Woodswallow (Artamus personatus)

Nomadic, occasionally coming to this area, e.g. [The inland route to Paluma](#).



Masked Woodswallow (Artamus personatus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 25 July 2005

17910 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Masked Woodswallow](#)].

Monotypic.

White-browed Woodswallow (Artamus superciliosus)

Also nomadic, a casual visitor to lowlands and Tableland. See [the inland route to Paluma](#).



White-browed Woodswallow (Artamus leucorhynchus)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 25 July 2005

17847 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-browed Woodswallow](#)].

Monotypic.

Dusky Woodswallow (Artamus cyanopterus)

Uncommon. Occasional visitor to the Tableland and drier areas.



Dusky Woodswallow (Artamus cyanopterus)

Capertee Valley, New South Wales, 6 January 2010

98155 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Eastern and southeastern Australian nominate race has broad white wing-stripe and broad white tips to tail; race *perthi* of southern and southwestern Australia has narrow wing-stripe and tail tips.

More photos at [[Birdway: Dusky Woodswallow](#)].

Black-faced Woodswallow (Artamus cinereus)

Usually in drier open areas south of Townsville - such as [Giru](#), [Cromarty](#) and [Toonpan](#) - and west of Ingham, e.g. [Wallaman Falls](#). Rare on the Tableland.



Black-faced Woodswallow (Artamus cinereus normani)

Oak Valley, Townsville District, NE Queensland, 6 July 2003

01067 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

In eastern Queensland, north of the Dawson River (Rockhampton), birds have white, rather than black, under-tail coverts. They are split into two races: a white-bellied *dealbatus*, between the Dawson and the Burdekin River, and a grey-bellied *normani*, (above) north of the Burdekin.

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-faced Woodswallow](#)].

Little Woodswallow (Artamus minor)

Rare vagrant. A few records - north of Townsville and along the [inland route to Paluma](#).

See: [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Little Woodswallow (Artamus minor derbyi)

Gregory Downs, NW Queensland, 27 July 2008

81051 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *derbyi* (above) of northern and eastern Australia is smaller and darker than nominate race of central Australia south of the Barkly Tableland and Western Australia south of the Great Sandy Desert.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Woodswallow](#)].

White-breasted Woodswallow (Artamus leucorhynchus)

The common powerline woodswallow.

See: [Giru](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Goldsborough Valley](#).



White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus leucopygialis*)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 13 July 2005

17168 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *leucopygialis* (above) of Australia, New Guinea and eastern Indonesia has paler head and throat than nominate race of the Philippines and Borneo.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-breasted Woodswallow](#)].

Dicruridae - Drongos

Spangled Drongo (Dicrurus bracteatus)

Common resident/winter migrant in lowland rainforest and adjacent rich open forests, deciduous vine scrubs and mangroves. Large migrating flocks seen in October in urban areas.

See: [Cairns Esplanade](#).



Spangled Drongo (Dicrurus bracteatus)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 30 April 2004

07075 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *atrabectus* breeds in northern Queensland, and is smaller and has narrower white tips on underwing coverts than the nominate race, which breeds in eastern Australia. Both races may be present in northeastern Queensland in winter.

More photos at [[Birdway: Spangled Drongo](#)].

Rhipiduridae - Fantails

Links to Species

- [Northern Fantail](#)
- [Willie Wagtail](#)
- [Rufous Fantail](#)
- [Mangrove Grey Fantail](#)
- [Grey Fantail](#)

Northern Fantail (Rhipidura rufiventris)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon resident of gallery forest, coastal open forest and melaleuca swamps. Less common south of Ingham but is usually at [Big Crystal Creek](#) and [Jourama Falls](#). On the Tableland try the [Mareeba](#) area. Unlike the perpetually restless [Grey Fantail](#) it often perches quietly on a branch.

See also: [Cardwell](#), [Murray Falls](#) and [Mt Molloy](#).



Northern Fantail (Rhipidura rufiventris isura)

Big Crystal Creek, NE Queensland, 24 August 2007

57791 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *isura* (above), ranging across northern Australia, has mid-grey upperparts and narrow white streaks on breast-band. Race *gularis* - New Guinea and islands in Torres Strait - has unmarked breast-band. Nominate race occurs in Timor.

More photos at [[Birdway: Northern Fantail](#)].

Willie Wagtail (Rhipidura leucophrys)

Common widespread resident and winter migrant especially in lightly wooded country and farmland.



Willie-wagtail (Rhipidura leucophrys)

Pentland, Northeastern Queensland, 25 June 2011

116960 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Smaller northern Australian race *picata* intergrades with smaller-billed southern Australian nominate race between Cairns and Townsville; larger, bigger-billed race *melaleuca* occurs in New Guinea, eastern Indonesia and Pacific islands east of New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Willie-wagtail](#)].

Rufous Fantail (Rhipidura rufifrons)

Northeastern race *intermedia* is altitudinal migrant breeding in upland rainforests while nominate race is passage migrant along the coast in spring and autumn. Occurs in gallery forests, mangroves and vine thickets particularly along creeks.

See: [Magnetic Island](#).



Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons intermedia*)

Millaa Millaa, NE Queensland, 3 December 2013

156427 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Queensland race *intermedia* (above) is similar to migratory nominate race of southeastern Australia, but tips of tail feathers much lighter, lores and face blacker, and white on belly more extensive.

More photos at [[Birdway: Rufous Fantail](#)].

Mangrove Grey Fantail (Rhipidura phasiana)

Occurs in mangroves along the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, e.g. [Normanton/Karumba](#).



Mangrove Grey Fantail (Rhipidura phasiana)

Roebuck Bay, NW Western Australia, 8 September 2004

09723 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Mangrove Grey Fantail](#)].

Monotypic.

Grey Fantail (Rhipidura fuliginosa)

Race *alisteri* is very common in just about all habitats April to August; less common resident race *keasti* is restricted to highland rainforest.

See: [Magnetic Island](#).



Grey Fantail (Rhipidura fuliginosa alisteri)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 25 August 2007

58061 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The migratory southern and eastern mainland Australian race *alisteri* (above) has

mid-grey upperparts, dark face and narrow breast-band not extending onto flanks. Race *keasti* (below) has very dark upperparts, wings and tail and a broad black breast-band extending onto flanks.



Grey Fantail (Rhipidura fuliginosa keasti)

Mobo Creek, Atherton Tableland, NE Queensland, 4 December 2013 156506 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Fantail](#)].

Corvidae - Crows and Ravens

Links to Species

- [Torresian Crow](#)
- [Australian Raven](#)

Torresian Crow (Corvus orru)

Common resident in most areas, especially near the local dump.

See: [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#).



Torresian Crow (Corvus orru cecilae)

Nawurlandja, Northern Territory, 9 September 2009

92065 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *cecilae* (above) has slightly longer wings and tail than the nominate race of New Guinea and eastern Indonesia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Torresian Crow](#)].

Australian Raven (Corvus coronoides)

Common in the southern part of the region.



Australian Raven (Corvus coronoides)

Gregory Springs, Northwestern Queensland, 27 July 2008

80956 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race of eastern and southern Australia replaced in southwestern Australia by smaller race *perplexus* which has shorter hackles.

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Raven](#)].

Monarchidae - Monarchs and Flycatchers

Links to Species

- [Leaden Flycatcher](#)
- [Broad-billed Flycatcher](#)
- [Satin Flycatcher](#)
- [Shining Flycatcher](#)
- [Restless Flycatcher](#)
- [Pied Monarch](#)
- [Magpie-lark](#)
- [Spectacled Monarch](#)
- [White-eared Monarch](#)
- [Black-faced Monarch](#)

Leaden Flycatcher (Myiagra rubecula)

Resident population is augmented by winter migrants. Most abundant in winter months, in coastal lowland melaleuca woodland, mangroves, eucalypt woodland and vine scrubs.

See: [Magnetic Island](#) and [Jourama Falls](#).



Male Leaden Flycatcher (Myiagra rubecula)

Townsville Town Common, NE Qld, 19 July 2010

105857 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Resident race *okyri* on Cape York and in northeastern Queensland south to about Innisfail is replaced further south by migratory eastern Queensland race *yorki* and

migratory nominate race in southeastern Australia. All three may be present in northeastern Queensland in winter. Both *okyri* and *yorki* are smaller than the nominate race; female *okyri* has more extensive uniform, orange-brown breast extending to sides of belly; male *yorki* has contrasting black lores.



Female Leaden Flycatcher (Myiagra rubecula)

Woodstock, Northeastern Queensland, 15 April 2007

48337 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Leaden Flycatcher](#)].

Broad-billed Flycatcher (Myiagra ruficollis)

Very rare in northeastern Queensland. Recorded from [Hinchinbrook Channel](#). Hard to tell from female Leaden Flycatcher. Features to look for in distinguishing both sexes of Broad-billed Flycatcher from female Leaden Flycatcher include broader bill, whiter eye-ring, especially the lower half, and more graduated tail. Female and immature Broad-billed Flycatcher have pale lores and more white in the tail feathers. (Source: article by Graham Chapman, Wingspan Vol. 13 No. 2, June 2003).

See: [Karumba](#).



Male Broad-billed Flycatcher (Myiagra ruficollis mimikae)

Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria, 29 September 2009

94122 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race *mimikae* of Australia and south coast of New Guinea is larger, paler and less-intensely coloured than the nominate race of the islands of southern Indonesia in the Flores Sea.



Broad-billed Flycatcher (Myiagra ruficollis mimikae)

Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria, 29 September 2009

09749 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Broad-billed Flycatcher](#)].

Satin Flycatcher (Myiagra cyanoleuca)

Very rare passage migrant throughout the area. Birds over-winter occasionally in mangroves and melaleuca swamps from Innisfail northwards.



Satin Flycatcher (Myiagra cyanoleuca)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 12 October 2018

189802 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Satin Flycatcher](#)].

Monotypic.

Shining Flycatcher (Myiagra alecto)

Moderately common in coastal lowlands along rainforest streams, melaleuca swamps, coastal streams and mangroves. Also on the larger continental islands.

See: [Plantation Creek](#), [Cardwell](#), [Dunk Island](#), [Innisfail](#), [Eubanangee Swamp National Park](#), [Goldsborough Valley](#), [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport and [Daintree River](#).



Male Shining Flycatcher (Myiagra alecto wardelli)

Daintree River, NE Queensland, 15 September 2008

80430 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The two Australian races, *wardelli* in Queensland and *melvillensis* in northwestern Australia, differ only in the female plumage. Both have upper mantle dark grey (rufous in nominate race of the Moluccas); *wardelli* has bright rufous upperparts and rufous-buff belly, flanks and under-tail coverts (see bird on right below); *melvillensis* has dark rufous upperparts and cream to white belly, flanks and under-tail coverts (white in nominate race).



Shining Flycatcher (Myiagra alecto wardelli)

Daintree River, NE Queensland, 1 February 2005

12943 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Shining Flycatcher](#)].

Restless Flycatcher (Myiagra inquieta)

Moderately common winter visitor to open woodland in east, especially near water; resident in northwestern Queensland.



Restless Flycatcher (Myiagra inquieta inquieta)

Capertee Valley, New South Wales, 16 October 2007

60354 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland as a winter visitor from southern Australia; race *nana* (below) is resident in northern Australia as far east as the Mitchell River catchment in southern Cape York and as far southeast as Mount Isa. It is sometimes treated as a separate species - the Paperbark Flycatcher - and is smaller, darker on back, has relatively shorter broader bill and longer stouter rectal bristles. The raspy series of call is shorter and harsher.



Restless (Paperbark) Flycatcher (Myiagra inquieta nana)

Keep River, NW Northern Territory, 20 September 2009

93695 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Restless Flycatcher](#)] and [[Birdway: Paperbark Flycatcher](#)].

Pied Monarch (Arses kaupi)

Endemic Species. Moderately common. Resident at all altitudes in rainforest, gallery forest and adjoining casuarina forest or wet sclerophyll. Feeds rather in the manner of a tree-creeper, moving up and down tree trunks searching for insects on the bark.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Jourama Falls](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Murray Falls](#), The 'Jubilee Highway', [Lake Morris](#) or [Copperlode Falls Dam](#) and [Julatten](#).



Male Pied Monarch (Arses kaupi kaupi)

Julatten, NE Queensland, 27 January 2008

62501 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Two races, both endemic to northeastern Queensland. Nominate race occurs from Daintree to Townsville and *terraereginae* from Daintree north to Cooktown. Nominate race has small bill; male has black plumage dull-glossy, white plumage with dark flecks, broad pectoral band. Race *terraereginae* has larger bill; male has black plumage glossy, white plumage unmarked, narrow pectoral band.



Female Pied Monarch (Arses kaupi kaupi)

Jourama Falls, NE Queensland, 20 April 2008

65527 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pied Monarch](#)].

Magpie-lark (Grallina cyanoleuca)

Widespread common resident in and winter migrant to most areas except rainforest.



Magpie-lark (Grallina cyanoleuca)

Morris Creek, Giru District, Northeastern Queensland, 3 July 2003

00758 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Smaller northern Australian race *neglecta* intergrades with nominate race between Cooktown and Cairns. Race *neglecta* has proportionally shorter tail and longer bill.

More photos at [[Birdway: Magpie-lark](#)].

Spectacled Monarch (Symposiarchus trivirgatus)

Winter migrant to coastal lowlands and resident on the Tableland. Found in rainforests, gallery forest, and vine thickets. Feeds actively in mixed flocks, usually well below the canopy.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Jourama Falls](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [Murray Falls](#), [Clump Mountain National Park](#), [Innisfail](#) and [Centenary Lakes](#).



Spectacled Monarch (Symposiarchus trivirgatus melanorrhous)
Kingfisher Park, Julatten, NE Queensland, 28 January 2007 46863 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Spectacled Monarch](#)].

Three Australian races: *albiventris* resident on eastern Cape York south to Princess Charlotte Bay; *melanorrhous* resident between Cooktown and Ayr; and migratory *gouldii* south of Shoalwater Bay. Races *melanorrhous* and *gouldii* intergrade between Ayr and Shoalwater Bay.

The Australian races differ from nominate race (Lesser Sunda Islands) in having less white on tail tips and grey shoulders. Race *albiventris* has sharp demarcation between rufous breast and white belly; *melanorrhous* has deeper grey upperparts and black upper-tail coverts; *gouldii* is paler overall than *melanorrhous*.

White-eared Monarch (Carterornis leucotis)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon in the rainforests, gallery forest, mangroves and vine thickets. Winter migrant to Townsville but resident in the Innisfail area. Rare on the Tableland. Often difficult to see as it feeds very actively, rather like a [Grey Fantail](#), on the top of the canopy.

See: [Magnetic Island](#), [Little Crystal Creek](#), [Broadwater Creek](#), [The 'Jubilee Highway'](#) and [Lake Morris](#).



White-eared Monarch (Carterornis leucotis)

Magnetic Island, NE Queensland, 20 July 2018

189265 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-eared Monarch](#)].

Monotypic.

Black-faced Monarch (Monarcha melanopsis)

Passage migrant in the lowlands March-April and September-October. Resident in upland rainforests.

See: [Jourama Falls](#).



Black-faced Monarch (Monarcha melanopsis)

Bluewater, NE Queensland, 3 October 2018

189727 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-faced Monarch](#)].

Monotypic.

Corcoracidae - Chough and Apostlebird

Links to Species

- [White-winged Chough](#)
- [Apostlebird](#)

White-winged Chough (Corcorax melanorhamphos)

Occasionally seen west of Townsville.



White-winged Chough (Corcorax melanorhamphos)

West of Ross River Dam, Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 18 October 2008 81213 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in eastern and southern Australia except in South Australia west of the Mt Lofty ranges where it is replaced by smaller, smaller-billed race *whiteae*.

More photos at [[Birdway: White-winged Chough](#)].

Apostlebird (Struthidea cinerea)

Common in the drier parts of the region, e.g. [Toonpan](#), along [the inland route to Paluma](#), at [Lake Mitchell](#) between Mt Molloy and Mareeba, near [Mt Carbine](#) and [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#).



Apostlebird (*Struthidea cinerea dalyi*)

Bluewater Springs, NE Queensland, 17 April 2018

186082 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The northern Australian race *dalyi* (above) is larger than the southern nominate race, has larger bill as well as darker, more streaked upperparts and paler underparts.

More photos at [[Birdway: Apostlebird](#)].

Paradisaeidae - Birds of Paradise

Victoria's Riflebird (Ptiloris victoriae)

Endemic Species. Common resident of coastal and Tableland rainforest and fringes. Males often use tall stumps in the rainforest as display perches, from August to November.

See [Paluma](#), [Wallaman Falls](#) and [Lake Eacham](#).



Male Victoria's Riflebird (Ptiloris victoriae)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 8 July 2003

01226 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic.



Female Victoria's Riflebird (Ptiloris victoriae)

Paluma, Northeastern Queensland, 4 March 2011

114961 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Victoria's Riflebird](#)].

Petroicidae - Australian Robins

Links to Species

- [Red-capped Robin](#)
- [Lemon-bellied Flycatcher](#)
- [Jacky Winter](#)
- [White-browed Robin](#)
- [Buff-sided Robin](#)
- [Grey-headed Robin](#)
- [Eastern Yellow Robin](#)
- [Pale-yellow Robin](#)
- [Hooded Robin](#)
- [Mangrove Robin](#)

Red-capped Robin (Petroica goodenovii)

Rare vagrant. Several records from [Hervey Range](#).



Red-capped Robin (Petroica goodenovii)

Gluepot, South Australia, 18 April 2009

88448 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-capped Robin](#)].

Monotypic.

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (Microeca flavigaster)

Resident in open woodland and drier forests, especially near water.

See: [Cromarty](#), [Oak Valley](#), [Jourama Falls](#) and [Murray Falls](#).



Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (Microeca flavigaster laetissima)

Jourama Falls, Northeastern Queensland, 30 June 2004

07776 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern Queensland race *flavissima* and central coastal Queensland race *laetissima* (above) intergrade in the Cairns-Atherton Tableland-Ingham-Charter Towers zone. Race *flavissima* has yellowish wash on upperparts, supercilium, face and throat; *laetissima* is larger, lacks yellowish wash on upperparts, has white supercilium, grey face and white throat.

More photos at [[Birdway: Lemon-bellied Flycatcher](#)].

Jacky Winter (Microeca fascinans)

Resident in open woodland in drier areas in the west of the region. Absent from the coast north of Townsville.

See: [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#).



Jacky Winter (Microeca fascinans pallida)

Yeldham Station, Northwestern Queensland, 25 July 2008

80673 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race occurs in eastern Australia. Paler northern and inland race *pallida* (above) ranges west of Cairns-Atherton Tableland-Pentland with zone of intergradation.

More photos at [[Birdway: Jacky Winter](#)].

White-browed Robin (Poecilodryas superciliosa)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon. Patchily distributed in riverside vegetation, vine scrubs and gallery forest. Usually at [Cromarty Siding Road](#), [Alligator Creek](#), [Jourama Falls](#) and [Big Mitchell Creek](#).

See also: [Big Crystal Creek](#) and [Cardwell](#).



White-browed Robin (Poecilodryas superciliosa)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 18 October 2008

80940 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: White-browed Robin](#)].

Monotypic.

Buff-sided Robin (Poecilodryas cerviniventris)

Species of Special Interest. Formerly regarded as race of [White-browed Robin](#), now accepted as full species. Occurs in northern Australia east to far northwestern Queensland, e.g. [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Buff-sided Robin (Poecilodryas cerviniventris)

Adel's Grove, Northwestern Queensland, 25 July 2008

80696 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Buff-sided Robin](#)].

Monotypic.

Grey-headed Robin (Heteromyias albispecularis cinereifrons)

Endemic Species*. Common resident in upland rainforest including edges and secondary growth, but also occurs in lowland rainforest in a few scattered localities. Usually seen on, or close to the ground. Try [Paluma](#), [Lake Eacham](#) or [The Crater](#).

See also: [Paluma Range National Park](#), [Wallaman Falls](#), [Broadwater Creek](#) and [Millaa Millaa](#).



Grey-headed Robin (Heteromyias albispectus cinereifrons)

Mount Hypipamee, Northeastern Queensland, 1 May 2011

115815 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

*Endemic status depends on whether the Grey-headed Robin of Australia (*Heteromyias albispectus cinereifrons*) is split from the Ashy Robin of New Guinea (*Heteromyias albispectus*) becoming *Heteromyias cinereifrons*: split accepted by Christidis & Boles (2008) and IOC but not BirdLife International or BirdLife Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway](#); [Grey-headed Robin](#)].

Eastern Yellow Robin (Eopsaltria australis)

Common resident of open forests, hoop pine plantations near rainforests and casuarinas in foothills and upland areas.

See: [Paluma Dam](#), [Grandis Forest](#) and [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Eastern Yellow Robin (Eopsaltria australis chrysorrhoa)

Broadwater State Forest, Northeastern Queensland, 21 August 2004

08411 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northeastern Australian race *chrysorrhoa* (above) is larger and has bright yellow rather than yellowish-grey rump of the nominate southern race.

More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Yellow Robin](#)].

Pale-yellow Robin (Tregellasia capito)

Species of Special Interest. Common resident in rainforest and rainforest edges at all altitudes.

See: [Edmund Kennedy National Park](#) and [Mt Whitfield Conservation Park](#).



Pale-yellow Robin (Tregellasio capito nana)

Paluma, NE Queensland, Australia, 26 June 2006

35681 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Geographically isolated, distinctive, smaller northern race *nana* (above) has buff rather than white lores, brownish-grey crown contrasting with greyish-olive back, and brighter yellow underparts, compared with nominate race of southeastern Queensland and northeastern NSW.

More photos at [[Birdway: Pale-yellow Robin](#)].

Hooded Robin (Melanodryas cucullata)

Rare vagrant.



Male Hooded Robin (Melanodryas cucullata picata)

Bowra, SW Queensland, 21 April 2014

158147 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Northern Australian race *picata* has much whiter breast than nominate southeastern Australian race, more white on tail of male; female has brownish-grey rather than grey upperparts.



Female Hooded Robin (Melanodryas cucullata picata)

Mt Isa District, NW Queensland, 28 May 2006

34292 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Hooded Robin](#)].

Mangrove Robin (Eopsaltria pulverulenta)

Species of Special Interest. Locally common but generally uncommon resident in mangroves. Try [Plantation Creek](#), and boat ramps near [Bushland Beach](#), [Edmonton](#), and [Hull Heads](#) See also [Cardwell](#) and [Coquette Point](#). Sometimes seen from the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) at Cairns Airport.



Mangrove Robin (Eopsaltria pulverulenta alligator)

Darwin, Northern Territory, 16 September 2004

10646 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Differences among races are slight. Race *leucura* occurs in Queensland, *alligator* in the Northern Territory, but the boundary between them in the Gulf of Carpentaria is uncertain. Race *leucura* has uniformly leaden-grey crown and back, and grey wash on breast; *alligator* (above) has black crown contrasting with grey back, only faint grey wash on breast. The nominate race occurs in New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Mangrove Robin](#)].

Dicaeidae - Flowerpeckers

Mistletoebird (Dicaeum hirundinaceum)

Common resident in all wooded habitats: mangroves, closed and open forests, and gardens. More common where mistletoe grow, it feeds on various small fruit and berries.

See: [Davies Creek National Park](#).



Male Mistletoebird (Dicaeum hirundinaceum)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 10 January 2006

28978 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race occurs in Australia (other races reside on the islands of eastern Indonesia).



Female Mistletoebird (Dicaeum hirundinaceum)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 28 May 2005

15679 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Mistletoebird](#)].

Nectariniidae - Sunbirds

Olive-backed Sunbird (Cinnyris jugularis)

Species of Special Interest. Abundant in coastal lowlands, and well wooded islands, especially near human habitation. Lives in mangroves, gallery forests, deciduous vine thickets, rainforest edges and gardens. It is one of the few bird species that has probably benefited from human presence. It feeds on garden plants and nests near, or actually in, buildings where it is safer from predators. Scarce in upland regions.

See: [Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#), [Magnetic Island](#), [Toomulla Beach](#), [Jourama Falls](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and the [Mangrove Boardwalk](#) near Cairns Airport.



Male Olive-backed Sunbird (Cinnyris jugularis frenatus)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 10 July 2003

01246 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *frenatus* - male has yellow mustachial stripe (above) - occurs also in New Guinea and Indonesia, and is one of many races throughout Southeast Asia.



Female Olive-backed Sunbird (Cinnyris jugularis frenatus)

Townsville, NE Queensland, 29 August 2003

02301 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Olive-backed Sunbird](#)].

Estrildidae - Weaver Finches

Links to Species

- [Nutmeg Mannikin](#)
- [Chestnut-breasted Mannikin](#)
- [Pictorella Mannikin](#)
- [Painted Finch](#)
- [Red-browed Finch](#)
- [Crimson Finch](#)
- [Star Finch](#)
- [Plum-headed Finch](#)
- [Black-throated Finch](#)
- [Zebra Finch](#)
- [Double-barred Finch](#)
- [Blue-faced Parrot-Finch](#)
- [Gouldian Finch](#)

Nutmeg Mannikin (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Also called Scaly-breasted Munia. Established exotic, released in Townsville in 1940 and recorded in Innisfail and Atherton in the early 60s. Common, especially around towns and farms, in long grass, sugar cane and other crops.



*Nutmeg Mannikin (*Lonchura punctulata topela*)*

Cairns, NE Queensland, 28 January 2007

46947 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race found in Australia is Indochinese race *topela*, dull brown compared with reddish-brown nominate race of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

More photos at [[Birdway: Nutmeg Mannikin](#)].

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (Lonchura castaneothorax)

Common resident in grassy woodland and grassland, especially near sugar cane and wetlands.

See: [Giru](#), [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#), [Toonpan](#) and [Lower Freshwater Road](#).



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (Lonchura castaneothorax)

Toonpan, Northeastern Queensland, 28 April 2002

09745 © Ian Montgomery [birdway.com.au](#)

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia; other races in New Guinea.

More photos at [[Birdway: Chestnut-breasted Mannikin](#)].

Pictorella Mannikin (Heteromunia pectoralis)

Very rare, prefers drier areas. Recorded west of Ingham, near Charters Towers and [Toonpan](#) 2007.



Pictorella Mannikin (*Heteromunia pectoralis*)

Toonpan, Northeastern Queensland, 5 April 2007

48030 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Pictorella Mannikin](#)].

Monotypic.

Painted Finch (Emblema pictum)

Locally common in spinifex and dry scrub in Western Queensland as far east as Opalton. Nomadic.

See: [Boodjamulla \(Lawn Hill\) National Park](#).



Painted Finch (Emblema pictum)

Cloncurry District, Northwestern Queensland, 24 May 2006

33366 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Painted Finch](#)].

Monotypic.

Red-browed Finch (Neochmia temporalis)

Common resident at all altitudes in tall grass and low shrubs near rainforest edges, roadsides, secondary growth and gardens.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#) (n nominate race), [Mount Lewis National Park](#) (smaller northern race *minor*).



Red-browed Finch (Neochmia temporalis temporalis)

Bluewater, Northeastern Queensland, 11 November 2004

11268 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Smaller race *minor*, below, occurs on Cape York and south to Cairns where it intergrades with the nominate race. Race *minor* has more golden back, brighter crimson, broader eyebrow stripe, darker, almost black tail.



Red-browed Finch (Neochmia temporalis minor)

Mt Lewis, Northeastern Queensland, 28 January 2008

62540 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-browed Finch](#)].

Crimson Finch (Neochmia phaeton)

Species of Special Interest. Resident of coastal lowlands in tall grass, cane fields and swamps. Very common around [Giru](#) and Ingham (e.g [Tyto Wetlands](#)).

See also: [Cromarty](#), the Bush Garden along [Ross River](#), [Wallaman Falls](#), [Eubanangee Swamp National Park](#) and [Lower Freshwater Road](#).



Male Crimson Finch (Neochmia phaeton)

Tyto Wetlands, Northeastern Qld, 24 February 2008

68328 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate black-bellied race occurs in northeastern Queensland and northern Australia west of Normanton. White-bellied race *evangelinae* resides on Cape York - where considered endangered - and in New Guinea.



Female Crimson Finch (Neochmia phaeton)

Tyto Wetlands, Northeastern Queensland, 17 August 2005

18607 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Crimson Finch](#)].

Star Finch (Neochmia ruficauda)

Local population now extinct. Closest population is at Lakefield in southern Cape York.



Star Finch (Neochmia ruficauda clarescens)

Lakefield, Cape York Peninsula, Northern Queensland, 9 September 2008

81739 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

White-bellied nominate race used to reside in central Queensland as far north as Townsville; now considered extinct. Yellow-bellied race *clarescens* (above) occurs on Cape York. A third race, *subclarescens*, very similar to *clarescens*, ranges from the Northern Territory to Western Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Star Finch](#)].

Plum-headed Finch (Neochmia modesta)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon nomad, some years in very large flocks, to areas south and southwest of Townsville and west of the Tableland.

See: [Giru](#) and [Toonpan](#).



Male Plum-headed Finch (Neochmia modesta)

Charters Towers District, Northeastern Qld, 3 March 2006 31046 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic.



Female Plum-headed Finch (Neochmia modesta)

Bowra, Southwestern Queensland, 20 April 2014

157932 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Plum-headed Finch](#)].

Masked Finch (Poephila personata)

Occurs in grassland and lightly timbered country near water in Northern Australia.
Try [Cumberland Dam](#) and [Chillagoe](#).



Masked Finch (*Poephila personata personata*)

Umbrawarra Gorge Road, Northern Territory, 15 Nov 2002 13906 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Two races. The nominate Western race (above) occurs in Northern Australia far east as the Gulf lowlands and Camooweal in western Queensland. The white-cheeked, Cape York race *leucotis*, (below) occurs in southern Cape York as far south as Chillagoe and Georgetown.



Masked ('White-eared') Finch (*Poephila personata leucotis*)

Cumberland Dam, N Queensland, 18 April 2018

186252 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Masked Finch](#)].

Black-throated Finch (Poephila cincta)

Species of Special Interest. Uncommon in lightly wooded country in drier areas.



Black-throated Finch (Poephila cincta cincta)

Townsville, North Queensland, 15 October 2006

43090 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate white-rumped race, above, is restricted to around Townsville. Try [Giru](#), near [Ross Dam](#), [Oak Valley](#), and [Toonpan](#). Dark-rumped *atropygialis*, below, occurs further north. Try [Big Mitchell Creek](#), [Mt Molloy](#), [Mt Carbine](#) and [Cumberland Dam](#).



Black-throated Finch (Poephila cincta atropygialis)

Coen District, Cape York Peninsula, 1 December 2009

97547 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Black-throated Finch](#)].

Zebra Finch (Taeniopygia guttata)

Generally an inland species but resident in drier areas including some Townsville locations such as [Townsville Common](#) and the Belgian Gardens Cemetery, shown on the map of [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#). The Cemetery is accessible by taking Bundock Street towards the airport and turning north into Evan Street.



Zebra Finch (Taeniopygia guttata castanotus)

Bowra, Cunnamulla, SW Queensland, 20 April 2014

157947 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Australian race *castanotus* sometimes treated as separate species from nominate race in Timor and nearby islands.

More photos at [[Birdway: Zebra Finch](#)].

Double-barred Finch (Taeniopygia bichenovii)

Also prefers drier country, where it is resident in woodland and urban areas. Scarce on the Tableland.

See: [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#) and [Toonpan](#).



Double-barred Finch (Taeniopygia bichenovii)

Serpentine Lagoon, North Queensland, 13 August 2006

27505 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern Australian race (above) has white rump; western race *annulosa* of Northern Territory and northern Western Australia has black rump.

More photos at [[Birdway: Double-barred Finch](#)].

Blue-faced Parrot-Finch (Erythrura trichroa)

- **Return to [Title Page](#)**

Species of Special Interest. Very uncommon. Inhabits tall grass on rainforest edges, when grasses are seeding. Its movements are poorly known, but it has been recorded south to Kirrama. On the Tableland is regularly seen (often with [Red-browed Finch](#)) at [Mt Lewis](#) and in the Butchers Creek-Topaz area, shown on the eastern part of the map of the Atherton Tableland. See also [Tully Gorge](#).



Blue-faced Parrot-Finch (Erythrura trichroa macgillivrayi)

Mount Lewis, NE Queensland, 31 January 2005

12797 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race found in Australia sometimes treated as separate race *macgillivrayi* otherwise included in New Guinea race *sigillifera*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Blue-faced Parrot-Finch](#)].

Gouldian Finch (Erythrura gouldiae)

Very rare and endangered. A very slight chance at [Georgetown](#) and [Chillagoe–Mungana Caves National Park](#). There is a captive breeding program at [Mareeba Wetlands](#).



Gouldian Finch (Erythrura gouldiae)

Wyndham, NE Western Australia, 19 September 2009

93363 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Gouldian Finch](#)].

Monotypic.

Passeridae - Sparrows

House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)

Exotic which reached the area in the 1960s, now common in all urban areas.



House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)

Coto Doñana, Andalucía, Spain, 4 June 2007

54044 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

The race introduced into Australia is the nominate northern Eurasian race (above).
More photos at [[Birdway: House Sparrow](#)].

Motacillidae - Pipits and Wagtails

Links to Species

- [Australasian Pipit](#)
- [Eastern Yellow Wagtail](#)
- [Grey Wagtail](#)

Australasian Pipit (Anthus novaeseelandiae)

Common resident in short grassland, coastal dunes, airfields, roadsides and paddocks.



Australasian Pipit (Anthus novaeseelandiae australis)

Orient Wetland, NE Queensland, 14 May 2010

104430 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Tawny-brown Australian mainland race *australis* (above) occurs in northeastern Queensland; smaller, greyer northern race *rogersi* ranges as far east as Cape York Peninsula.

More photos at [[Birdway: Australasian Pipit](#)].

(Eastern) Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava/tschutschensis)

Species of Special Interest. Rare summer visitor to open short grass flats including airfields, coastal plains, marshy swamps and turf farms such as at the one at

Edmonton.



Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla (flava) tschutschensis)

Town Common, Townsville, NE Queensland, 17 November 2018

199813 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

IOC and HBW have recently split Yellow Wagtail into two species the Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) of central and western Eurasia and the Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) of eastern Eurasia and Alaska. BirdLife still recognises just a single variable species the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).

Four Asian races may reach Australia and the races of males acquiring breeding plumage in March-April can be determined: *simillima* from around the Bering Sea (white supercilium, yellow throat); *tschutschensis* from eastern Siberia and western North America (white supercilium, white throat); *taivana* from southeastern Siberia and Hokkaido (yellow supercilium, yellow throat); and *macronyx* from Mongolia and Manchuria (all black face, yellow throat).

Birds in non-breeding plumage of different races look very similar and first year birds, like the one in the photo, show very little yellow.

More photos at [[Birdway: Eastern Yellow Wagtail](#)]

Grey Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea)

Rare vagrant in summer to higher altitudes.



Grey Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea)

Rathgar, Dublin, Ireland, 13 May 2007

51383 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Grey Wagtail](#)].

Races of Australian vagrants not known.

Alaudidae - Larks

Horsfield's Bushlark (Mirafra javanica)

Also called Singing Bushlark. Common, in short grassy habitat in the drier parts of the area on the coast and Tableland. Less conspicuous in the early Dry when not calling.

See: [Hodel Road-Morris Creek](#) and [Lower Freshwater Road](#).



Horsfield's Bushlark (Mirafra javanica)

Morris Creek, Giru, Northeastern Queensland, 29 September 2007

59178 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Larger, russet-hued race *athertonensis* occurs on the Atherton Tableland with smaller, browner-grey race *horsfieldii* to the west and south. Range limits of *athertonensis* are uncertain, and birds in Giru district (above) are very variable.

More photos at [[Birdway: Horsfield's Bushlark](#)].

Cisticolidae - Cisticolas

Links to Species

- [Zitting Cisticola](#)
- [Golden-headed Cisticola](#)

Zitting Cisticola (Cisticola juncidis)

Species of Special Interest. Scarce and patchily distributed in coastal plains, usually in extensive areas of short to medium grasses, near saltpan or freshwater swamps. Associated with saline sedges and saltwater couch. Has been recorded from [Ayr](#) to [Giru](#) - see [Morris Creek Road](#), [Cromarty](#) - and, near Ingham, around [The Orient](#) and Forrest Beach (shown on the [map of Ingham to Tully](#)).



Zitting Cisticola (Cisticola juncidis laveryi)

Morris Creek Road, Giru District, NE Queensland, 8 March 2004

05442 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More brightly coloured race *laveryi* (above) found on Cape York and eastern Queensland; paler race *normani* found along the southeastern Gulf of Carpentaria.

More photos at [[Birdway: Zitting Cisticola](#)].

Golden-headed Cisticola (Cisticola exilis)

Abundant in grassland particularly on the coastal lowlands.

See: [Ayr](#), [Jerona Road & Hodel Road](#), [Giru](#), [Townsville Common Conservation Park](#), [Lower Freshwater Road](#) and [Tinaburra Peninsula](#).



Golden-headed Cisticola (Cisticola exilis diminuta)

Toonpan, NE Queensland, 5 April 2007

C47995 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Small race *diminuta* (above) found in northern Queensland is more rusty rufous, less tawny rufous than nominate race of southeastern Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Golden-headed Cisticola](#)].

Locustellidae - Songlarks and Grassbirds

Links to Species

- [Brown Songlark](#)
- [Rufous Songlark](#)
- [Tawny Grassbird](#)
- [Little Grassbird](#)

Brown Songlark (Cinclorhamphus cruralis)

Present much of the year in grasslands from [Giru](#) south, e.g. [Hodel Road](#), but very scarce further north.



Brown Songlark (Cinclorhamphus cruralis)

Morris Creek, Giru District, Northeastern Queensland, 15 February 2005

13471 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Brown Songlark](#)].

Monotypic.

Rufous Songlark (Cinclorhamphus mathewsi)

Scarce winter migrant to grassy woodland, e.g. [Toonpan](#), the back of [Ross River Dam](#) and along [the inland route to Paluma](#).

See also: [Cumberland Dam](#), [Georgetown](#).



Rufous Songlark (Cinclorhamphus mathewsi)

Torrens Creek, Northeastern Queensland, 5 May 2002

09940 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Rufous Songlark](#)].

Monotypic.

Tawny Grassbird (Megalurus timoriensis)

Common resident especially on the Tableland. Occurs in tall grass in woodland, pastures, swamps, reed beds, and sugar cane.

See: [The Orient](#), [Tyto Wetlands](#), [Lower Freshwater Road](#) and [Tinaburra Peninsula](#).



Tawny Grassbird (Megalurus timoriensis alisteri)

Orient Wetland, NE Queensland, 14 May 2010

104397 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Only one race, *alisteri*, (above) found in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Tawny Grassbird](#)].

Little Grassbird (Megalurus gramineus)

Uncommon. Inhabits tall grass and permanent reed beds bordering swamps and dams.



Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus goulburni*)

Pentland, NE Queensland, 25 June 2011

116752 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race resides in Tasmania; eastern mainland Australian race *goulburni* (above) turns up patchily, in wetter seasons, north to Atherton Tableland and Normanton.

More photos at [[Birdway: Little Grassbird](#)].

Acrocephalidae - Reed-Warblers

Links to Species

- [Great Reed-Warbler](#)
- [Australian Reed-Warbler](#)

Great Reed-Warbler (Acrocephalus arundinaceus)

Also called Eastern or Oriental Reed-Warbler when treated as separate species (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) from western Eurasian Great Reed-Warbler. Rare vagrant.

Australian Reed-Warbler (Acrocephalus australis)

Also called Clamorous Reed-Warbler. Winter visitor (though small numbers have been recorded breeding) to reed beds along streams and dams, and occasionally in cane fields.

See: [Townsville Common](#).



Australian Reed-Warbler (Acrocephalus australis)

Hasties Swamp, Northeastern Queensland, 15 September 2013

155197 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern Australian race (above) is mid-brown rather than walnut-brown compared with western race *gouldi*.

More photos at [[Birdway: Australian Reed-Warbler](#)].

Hirundinidae - Swallows and Martins

Links to Species

- [White-backed Swallow](#)
- [Fairy Martin](#)
- [Tree Martin](#)
- [Red-rumped Swallow](#)
- [Welcome Swallow](#)
- [Barn Swallow](#)

White-backed Swallow (Cheramoeca leucosternus)

Rare vagrant: few records.



White-backed Swallow (Cheramoeca leucosternus)

Birdsville District, Southwestern Queensland, 19 September 2006

41961 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Monotypic.

Fairy Martin (Petrochelidon ariel)

Widespread common resident, breeding under bridges and culverts in lowland areas. Often perches on powerlines, sometimes in mixed flocks with other swallows.



Fairy Martin (Petrochelidon ariel)

Mount Isa, Northwestern Queensland, 25 May 2006

33773 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Fairy Martin](#)].

Monotypic.

Tree Martin (Petrochelidon nigricans)

Numbers irregular but not uncommon in lowland areas. Seen in large flocks during migration. Often perches on powerlines, sometimes in mixed flocks of other swallows.

See: [Goldsborough Valley](#).



Tree Martin (Petrochelidon nigricans neglecta)

Morris Creek, Giru District, NE Queensland, 15 February 2005

13460 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race breeds only in Tasmania and islands of Bass Strait; mainland race *neglecta* (above) breeds as far north as Mossman-Mount Isa. Both races move north in winter and occur in northern Queensland. Race *neglecta* is smaller, has paler underparts and rump without ochre wash, and forehead is creamy rufous rather than rufous.

More photos at [[Birdway: Tree Martin](#)].

Red-rumped Swallow (Cecropis daurica)

Species of Special Interest. A summer visitor to areas from Cairns north to the Daintree. Recorded most years since 1984 but easy to overlook. Check powerlines around [Newell Beach](#) and [Mossman](#).



Red-rumped Swallow (Cecropis daurica japonica)

Newell Beach, Mossman, NE Queensland, 30 January 2005

12559 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race visiting northern Australia is eastern Asian race *japonica* (above), characterised by heavily streaked, whitish underparts, lightly streaked rump, and chestnut collar broadly interrupted on nape.

More photos at [[Birdway: Red-rumped Swallow](#)].

Welcome Swallow (Hirundo neoxena)

Abundant in farmland and open country near water, especially in winter, when migrants from further south augment local residents.



Welcome Swallow (Hirundo neoxena)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 26 September 2004

10797 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate eastern Australian race (above) breeds along the coast of northeastern Queensland as far north as Mossman. In winter it is found all over north Queensland including Cape York and as far west as Normanton.

More photos at [[Birdway: Welcome Swallow](#)].

Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica)

Species of Special Interest. Scarce summer migrant. Usually a few records each year from coastal locations in summer. Check mixed flocks of swallows and martins on powerlines. See [The 'Jubilee Highway'](#) and [Newell Beach](#).



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*)

Newell Beach, Mossman, NE Queensland, 30 January 2005

12687 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Race visiting Australia is the eastern Asian race *gutturalis* (above) which has creamy-white underparts, and a narrower breast-band than the nominate race of western Eurasia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Barn Swallow](#)].

Zosteropidae - Silvereye and White-eyes

Links to Species

- [Yellow White-eye](#)
- [Silvereye](#)

Yellow White-eye (Zosterops luteus)

Isolated, elusive populations in mangroves from Bowen to Giru, e.g. [Molongle Creek](#) and [Plantation Creek](#). More common on the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, e.g. [Karumba](#).



Yellow White-eye (Zosterops luteus)

Buffalo Creek, Darwin, Northern Territory, 2 September 2009

91136 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Brighter, larger-billed nominate race (above) resides in both the Gulf of Carpentaria, and between Bowen and Giru.

More photos at [[Birdway: Yellow White-eye](#)].

Silvereye (Zosterops lateralis)

Common resident of rainforests, especially edges and secondary growth, gallery forests, coastal thickets, deciduous vine thickets, mangroves, lantana and gardens.

See: [Bluewater Forest](#), [Green Island](#).



Silvereye (Zosterops lateralis vegetus)

Lockhart River, Cape York, N Queensland, 30 August 2011 121165 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Small race *vegetus* (above) of Queensland north of Townsville has yellow-olive head sharply contrasting with grey back, flanks with only a slight buff or grey wash. Townsville is in the zone of intergradation between *vegetus* and the eastern Australian race *cornwalli*, which has more buff flanks, see below. Purplish wash on upper breast of bird in the photo is from the berries on which it was feeding.



Silvereye (Zosterops lateralis vegetus x cornwalli)

Bluewater Forest, NE Queensland, 2 July 2014

158226 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

More photos at [[Birdway: Silvereye](#)].

Sturnidae - Starlings

Links to Species

- [Common Starling](#)
- [Common Myna](#)
- [Metallic Starling](#)

Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)

Occasional single birds and small flocks reported but not established.



Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)

Shellharbour, New South Wales, 24 November 2006

43520 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Starling](#)].

Common Myna (Sturnus tristis)

Introduced to North Queensland in 1883 to combat insects in cane fields. Now unfortunately well established, especially in towns and cities, despite efforts to control it. Huge flocks roost in the centres of Cairns and Townsville.



Common Myna (Sturnus tristis)

Townsville, Northeastern Queensland, 2 March 2008

63774 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate, Indian race (above) occurs in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Common Myna](#)].

Metallic Starling (Aplonis metallica)

Species of Special Interest. Mainly summer migrant from New Guinea August-May. Small flocks over-winter here and the numbers doing so appear to be increasing. Very common north of Ingham in rainforest, parks and gardens. Nesting colonies, sometimes consisting of hundreds of nests, hang from one tall isolated tree, often in a clearing. Most numerous in lowlands and foothills.

See: [Murray Falls](#), [Clump Mountain National Park](#), [Innisfail](#), [Accommodation in Cairns](#), [Cairns Esplanade](#) and [Wonga Beach](#).



Metallic Starling (*Aplornis metallica*)

Tully, Northeastern Queensland, 14 November 2010

114019 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Nominate race (above) occurs in Australia.

More photos at [[Birdway: Metallic Starling](#)].

Turdidae - Thrushes

Links to Species

- [Bassian Thrush](#)
- [Russet-tailed Thrush](#)

Bassian Thrush (Zoothera lunulata)

Also called Ground Thrush. Moderately common on Tablelands and upland regions, 800-1200m.

See: [Paluma Range National Park](#) and [The Crater](#).



Bassian Thrush (Zoothera lunulata)

New England, New South Wales, 16 January 2010

98380 © Ian Montgomery birdway.com.au

Geographically very isolated northern race *cuneata* has, in comparison with nominate race of southeastern Australian (above), slightly darker more rufous upperparts, a more cinnamon wash on underparts, longer bill, longer wings, and shorter tail.

More photos at [[Birdway: Bassian Thrush](#)].

Russet-tailed Thrush (Zoothera heinei)

Scarce resident in rainforest 500-1000m. Occurs at [Paluma](#), on the Atherton

Tableland and near Mossman. Monotypic.

Additional Information for the Traveller

- [Accommodation Catering for Birders](#)
- [Guiding and Tours](#)
- [References, Addresses, Websites](#)

Accommodation Catering for Birders

Atherton

Tolga Bat Hospital near Hasties Swamp has self-contained accommodation for volunteers who support the work of the bat hospital which is situated there. Located at 134 Carrington Road, off Herberton Road, Atherton, in walking distance of Mt Baldy State Forest and 5km from Hasties Swamp, Contact: Jenny Mclean, PO Box 685, Atherton, Qld 4883; phone: 07 4091 2683; [jenny@tolgabathospital.org]; [<https://tolgabathospital.org/basic-info/>].

Woodlands Tourist Park on the Herberton Road adjoins Mt Baldy State Forest has caravan and campsites as well as self-contained cabins. Say that you are birders and ask for a site near the forest. Contact: 141 Herberton Road, Atherton, Qld 4883; 1800 041 441; 07 4091 1407; fax: 07 4091 3449; [stay@woodlandscp.com.au]; [<http://www.woodlandscp.com.au>].

- Link to section on [Atherton](#)

Daintree

Red Mill House - Bed and Breakfast at Daintree Village in a beautifully restored 'Old Queenslander' set in a tropical garden. It is only minutes away from the departure jetty for boat cruises. Contact: Red Mill House, 11-15 Stewart Street, Daintree, Qld 4873. phone/fax: 07 4098 6233; [info@redmillhouse.com.au]; [<http://redmillhouse.com.au>]

- Link to section on [Daintree River](#)

Hidden Valley

Hidden Valley Cabins, in the drier eucalypt woodland on the western slopes of the Paluma Range is an award-winning eco-resort and operates with 100% solar power. All meals are supplied and it is fully licensed. Campsites are no longer available and the restaurant is for resident guests only. Daily tours are available including the Platypus Safari and Nocturnal Walk. Contact: Ian and Bonnie McLennan, 67 McLennan Road, Hidden Valley, Qld 4816; 07 4770 8088; 1800 466 509; [goodnitesleep@hiddenvalleycabins.com.au]; [<http://www.hiddenvalleycabins.com.au>].

- Link to section on [Inland Route to Paluma](#)

Julatten

Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge, set in a five-hectare rainforest reserve at an altitude of 440m, has self-contained units, bunkhouse rooms, campsites and a communal cooking area. Current birding information and maps of the local area are provided upon arrival. Contact: Andrew and Carol Isles, RN 6 Mt Kooyong Road, Julatten, Qld 4871; 07 4094 1263; [sootyowl@bigpond.com]; [<http://www.birdwatchers.com.au>].

- [Link to section on Julatten](#)

Kuranda

Cassowary House, set entirely in rainforest, has self-contained units or B&B. Most of the low-mid altitude birds as well as the elusive Red-necked Crake and Cassowary visit the grounds regularly. Contact: Cassowary House, Black Mountain Rd, Kuranda, Qld 4881; 07 4093 7318; [<http://www.cassowary-house.com.au/>]

- [Link to section on Kuranda](#)

Malanda

Rose Gums has self-contained secluded cabins set in 93 hectares of rainforest and woodland with a good range of species including Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, most common November-March. Bush-hen, Barred Cuckoo-shrike and Pacific Baza are also seen here. Contact: Peta and Jon Nott, 324 Land Road, PO Box 776, Malanda, Qld 4885; 07 4096 8360; Fax 07 4096 8312; [info@rosegums.com.au] [<http://www.rosegums.com.au>].

- [Link to section on Malanda](#)

Paluma

Rainforest Inn has comfortable motel-style accommodation and a restaurant. Bird feeders attract some of the birds from the nearby rainforest. Contact: Rainforest Inn, 1 Mt Spec Road, Paluma, Qld 4816; 07 4770 8688; [reception@rainforestinnpaluma.com]; [<http://rainforestinnpaluma.com>].

Paluma Rainforest Cottages provide self-contained cottages in Paluma village: [<http://www.palumarainforest.com.au>]; 16 Mount Spec Road, Paluma; Phone 07 4770 8690.

- [Link to section on Paluma](#)
- [Return to Links to Chapters with Additional Information](#)

Guiding and Tours

Cairns

Dr Martin Cohen runs Wild about Australia, a wildlife education and interpretive business based in Cairns. Martin can design, plan and lead private and exclusive individual tours, educational safaris or wildlife photography trips. Contact: 16 Thomas Street, Manunda, Qld 4870; 07 4031 2359; 0428 186 125; [martin@wildaboutaustralia.com]; [<http://www.wildaboutaustralia.com>].

Ben Blewitt originally set up Cassowary Tours [[Cassowary Tours: Ben Blewitt](#)] but is no longer involved in administration. He does, however, still do guiding for them and [[Sicklebill Safaris](#)].

- Link to section on [Cairns](#)

Daintree River Cruises

Daintree Boatman Nature Tours. Murray Hunt is a professional birdwatching guide offering early morning cruises on the Daintree River (previously run by Chris Dahlberg), as well as day tours of the region. Cruises depart the public boat ramp at Daintree Village. Photographic charters and late afternoon cruises are also possible. Day tours combine a cruise with a visit to key birding sites including Mount Lewis and may include an additional cruise on the Mossman River. Contact: 0417 651 929; [boatman@daintreerivertours.com.au]; [<http://daintreerivertours.com.au>].

Daintree River Wildwatch, with guide Ian (Sauce) Worcester, operates early morning and sunset birding tours on the Daintree River, leaving from the Daintree Village Jetty. Contact: PO Box 741, Mossman, Qld 4873; 0447 734 933; [info@daintreeriverwildwatch.com.au]; [<http://www.daintreeriverwildwatch.com.au>].

Mangrove Adventures has been operated by Dan Irby on the Daintree River since 1993. His small and personal, day and night natural history tours go where other boats can't. Most popular tours are the Sunrise Birdwatching and Evening Spotlighting Tours. Contact: 07 4090 7017; [mangrove.adventures@gmail.com]; [<http://www.mangroveadventures.com.au>].

- Link to section on [Daintree River](#)

Innisfail

Kirrama Wildlife Tours, operated by Klaus Uhlenhut, runs fully accommodated birding tours for small groups in northern Australia (Qld, NT and WA) and to the Perth area. Contact: PO Box 1400, Innisfail, Qld 4860; 07 4065 5181;

[info@kirrama.com.au]; [[Kirrama Wildlife Tours](#)].

- [Link to section on Innisfail](#)

Kuranda

Cassowary Tours offer a variety of guided day tours around the Cairns/Atherton Tablelands region and a range of extended, fully accommodated tours in the Cairns/ Tablelands region, up Cape York, over to the Gulf and around inland Outback Queensland. Contact: P.O. Box 387, Kuranda, Qld 4881; 07 4093 7318; 0429 341 212; [info@cassowarytours.com.au]; [<http://www.cassowarytours.com.au>]. Sicklebill Safaris, a sister company, offer similar services farther afield in Australia and to New Guinea, the Pacific, Asia and Africa: [<http://sicklebillsafaris.com>].

- [Link to section on Kuranda](#)

Mossman

Del Richards, based in Mossman, operates Fine Feather Tours with full-day tours from the coast to the dry inland via tropical rainforest as well as half-day cruise/tours. Hit lists welcome. Contact: PO Box 853, Mossman, Qld 4873; 07 4094 1199; [info@finefeathertours.com.au]; [<http://www.finefeathertours.com.au>]

- [Link to section on Mossman Gorge](#)

Mount Molloy

Close-up Birding Adventures, operated by David (Chook) Crawford based in Mt Molloy, specialises in birding tours to Cape York, Iron Range and the Wet Tropics. Contact 07 4094 1068; 0437 331 519; [info@closeupbirding.com.au]; [<http://www.closeupbirding.com.au>].

- [Link to section on Mount Molloy](#)

Ravenshoe

Jonathon Munro offers bird and nocturnal mammal tours tailored for individuals or groups, in the Cairns/Tableland area, as well as extended tours to Cape York, Iron Range, Northern Territory, and Tasmania. Contact: PO Box 707, Ravenshoe, Qld 4888; 07 4097 7408; 0429 438 064; [jmunro@wildwatch.com.au]; [<http://www.wildwatch.com.au/Home>].

- [Link to section on Kaban Area](#)

Yungaburra

Alan Gillanders, an all-round naturalist, specialises in birdwatching and nocturnal tours but also enjoys leading general natural history tours on the Atherton Tableland for groups or individuals. Contact: 2 Mather Road, Yungaburra, Qld 4884; 07 4095 3784; 0408 953 786; [alan@alanswildlifetours.com.au]; [<http://www.alanswildlifetours.com.au>].

- Link to section on [Yungaburra](#)
- Return to [Links to Chapters with Additional Information](#)

References, Addresses, Websites

Links to Chapter Contents

- [Queensland National Parks](#)
- [Bird Field Guides](#)
- [Other Bird References](#)
- [Bird Audio Publications](#)
- [Bird DVD Publications](#)
- [Mammals](#)
- [Reptiles and Amphibians](#)
- [Butterflies](#)
- [General Natural History](#)
- [Other Websites and Apps](#)

Queensland National Parks

The Queensland National Parks website has excellent sections on all the national parks in Queensland with links to many maps that may be downloaded as PDFs: [<https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/index.php>].

The same website has a facility for online booking of permits, including camping permits: [<https://qpws.usedirect.com/qpws/>]. Campsites may also be booked by calling 13 74 68, and over the counter at Queensland Parks centres and agencies at the following locations in northeastern Queensland. See [<https://recreation.npsr.qld.gov.au/booking-offices/>] for a full list of booking locations.

- Atherton Visitor Information Centre: Corner Main and Silo Roads, Atherton; P.O. Box 1335, Atherton, Qld 4883; 1300 366 361; [athinfocentre@trc.qld.gov.au]; [<http://www.athertontablelands.com.au/visitor-information-centres/>]
- Cairns and Tropical North Visitor Information Centre self-service kiosk: 51 The Esplanade, Cairns Qld 4870.
- Cairns: ARB Cairns, 59 Amuller Street, Portsmith, Qld 4870; 07 4035 3350; [cairns@arb.com.au]; [<https://www.arb.com.au/stores/arb-cairns/>]
- Cardwell and Hinchinbrook Tours and Hinchinbrook Hiking: 2/129 Victoria Street, Cardwell, Qld 4849; 07 4066 8248; [tours@visithinchinbrook.com.au]; [<https://www.visithinchinbrook.com.au>]
- Cardwell Visitor and Heritage Centre: Cardwell Bush Telegraph, 53 Victoria Street, Cardwell, Qld 4849; 07 4066 2412; [bushtelegraph@ccrc.qld.gov.au]; [<https://www.tropicalcoasttourism.com.au/cardwell>]
- Ingham Travel: 28 Lannercost Street, Ingham 4850; 07 4776 5666 [ask@inghamtravel.com.au] [<http://www.inghamtravel.com.au>]

- Mission Beach Charters :1349C El Arish-Mission Beach Road, Mission Beach, Qld 4852; 07 4068 7009; [bec@missionbeachcharters.com.au]; [<http://www.missionbeachcharters.com.au>]
- Tinaroo QPWS Self-service Kiosk, Tinaroo Falls Dam Road, Tinaroo, Qld 4872 (in the park at the Tinaroo Falls Dam Lookout)
- Tully Visitor and Heritage Centre: Bruce Highway, Tully; PO Box 738, Tully, Qld 4854; 07 4068 2288; [tullytourism@ccrc.qld.gov.au] [http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/tourist-info/-/asset_publisher/lpA0/content/tully-visitor-and-heritage-centre]

*QPWS centres are open Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm, except public holidays.

Note that many national parks are out of range of mobile signals, so campsites should be booked in advanced. This is particularly advisable at busy times such as weekends and in school holidays. See [http://education.qld.gov.au/public_media/calendar/holidays.html]. This site is also useful for drivers to know when speed limits apply near schools.

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Bird Field Guides

Menkhorst, P., Rogers, D., Clarke, R., Davies, J., Marsack, P., & Franklin, K.: **The Australian Bird Guide**

- Book edition (2017) CSIRO Publishing: [<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/6520>]

Morcombe, M. **Field Guide to Australian Birds**

- Book edition (2004), Steve Parish Publishing: [<http://www.steveparish.com.au>]
- iPad/iPhone and Android Apps: available through Apple App Store and Google Play

Pizzey, G. & Knight, F. **The Graham Pizzey and Frank Knight Field Guide to the Birds of Australia**

- Book edition (2012), Harper Collins: [<https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9780732291938/>]
- iPad/iPhone and Android Apps, Windows PC: [<http://www.gibbonmm.com.au>]

Simpson, K., & Day, N. (2010). **Field Guide to the Birds of Australia**, Penguin Australia [<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/field-guide-birds-australia-8th-edition-9780670072316>]

Slater, P., P. & R. (2009). **The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds**, New Holland: [<http://au.newhollandpublishers.com/new-release/november-2017/the-slater-field-guide-to-australian-birds-2nd-edition.html>]

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Other Bird References

Barrett et al. **The New Atlas of Australian Birds**, RAOU (now BirdLife Australia) is no longer in print. Try libraries or secondhand sources: [<http://www.andrewisles.com/>]. See the BirdLife Australia online bird atlas: [<https://birddata.birdlife.org.au>].

Christidis, L. & Boles, W.E. (2008). **Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds**, CSIRO Publishing: [<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5702.htm>].

Schodde, R. & Mason, I.J. (1999). **The Directory of Australian Birds - Passerines**, CSIRO Publishing; [<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/2247.htm>].

Schodde, R. & Tiddeman, S.C. (eds) (1986). **Readers Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds**, Readers Digest, is no longer in print. Try: [<https://www.boomerangbooks.com.au/book.cfm?isbn=9780949819994>].

The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds, Oxford University Press (HANZAB) is no longer in print. Try libraries or secondhand sources: [<http://www.andrewisles.com/>].

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Bird Audio Publications

A Field Guide to Australian Birdsong (2007), Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (now part of BirdLife Australia). This classic set of 10 CDs, among others, may still be available from these sources:

- [http://www.birdingaustralia.com.au/shop.html#COMPACT_DISCS];

For regional bird call CDs:

- by David Stewart [http://www.naturesound.com.au/cd_favourites.htm]
- by **Fred Van Gessel** [<http://www.professionalwildlifesounds.com.au>]
- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Bird DVD Publications

Rainforest Birds of Australia's Wet Tropics by Jack Leighton: [<http://www.tinaroowaters.com.au>].

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Mammals

Menkhorst, P. & Knight, F. (2011). **A Field Guide to Australian Mammals**, Oxford University Press: [<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/field-guide-to-mammals-of-australia-9780195573954?cc=au&lang=en&>]

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Reptiles and Amphibians

Cogger, H.G. (2014). **Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia**, CSIRO Publishing. [<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7845>]

Tyler, M.J. & Knight, F. (2011). **Field Guide to the Frogs of Australia**, CSIRO Publishing. [<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/6809>] paperback and ebook.

Vanderduys, E. (2012). **Field Guide to the Frogs of Queensland**, CSIRO Publishing. [<http://www.publish.csiro.au/book/6850>] paperback and ebook

Frogs Field Guide, Australian Museum, Mobile App for iOS and Android: [<http://australianmuseum.net.au/general-frogs-field-guide>].

Wilson, S. & Swan, G. (2013). **A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia**, New Holland. [<http://au.newhollandpublishers.com/a-complete-guide-to-reptiles-of-australia-fifth-edition.html>]

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Butterflies

Braby, M.F. (2016). **The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia**, CSIRO Publishing: [<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7223>]; paperback and ebook.

- Return to [Jourama Falls](#)
- Return to [About the Atherton Tableland](#)
- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

General Natural History

Wildlife of Tropical Queensland, (2000) Queensland Museum. [<http://www.shop.qm.qld.gov.au/default/wildlife-of-tropical-north-queensland.html>]

Discovery Guide to Outback Queensland, (2003) Queensland Museum. [<http://www.shop.qm.qld.gov.au/default/books/discovery-guide-to-outback-queensland.html>]

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website

Other Websites and Apps

As well as those listed elsewhere in this book the following may be useful: **Andrew Isles Natural History Books** carries a huge collection of new and second hand books: [<http://www.andrewisles.com/>].

The **Australian Wildlife Conservancy** (AWC) is a non-government organisation

dedicated to saving the threatened wildlife and ecosystems of Australia. Three of their many sanctuaries are in northeastern Qld. [<http://www.australianwildlife.org>].

BirdLife Australia [<http://birdlife.org.au>] is dedicated to conservation, study and enjoyment of native birds and their habitat. It has links to its observatories, special interest and regional groups, below.

BirdLife Townsville

- Page on Birdlife Australia website: [<http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-townsville>]
- Local website: [<http://www.birdlifetownsville.org.au>]

BirdLife Northern Queensland

- Page on Birdlife Australia website: [<http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-northern-queensland>]
- Local website: [<http://birdlifeq.org>]. This site has an extensive series of bird lists for locations in northeastern Queensland.

Lloyd Nielsen, based in Mt Molloy, produces Birding Australia which covers most things to do with birding throughout Australia and is updated every year. Contact: PO Box 55, Mt Molloy, Qld 4871; 07 4094 1549; [lloyd@birdingaustralia.com.au]; [<http://www.birdingaustralia.com.au>].

Birdwatching Australia has birdwatching tours, bird clubs, freelance-guides, bird-orientated accommodation and reference information: [<http://www.ausbird.com>]

The Australian Crane Network gives information on cranes in the area including the Crane Count held every September on the Atherton Tableland: [<http://ozcranes.net>].

Bureau of Meteorology Weather Forecasts – [<http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/?ref=hdr>]

Birdata is the BirdLife Australia data base of bird records: [<https://birdata.birdlife.org.au>]. Birdata app for Apple and Android devices is available from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

eBird is the Cornell Ornithology data base of bird records: [<https://ebird.org/home>]. eBird app for Apple and Android devices is available from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Eremaea Birdline North Queensland is a free birding records database and atlas. Check it for recent unusual and interesting observations and for generating bird lists by location: [<http://www.ereamaa.com/BirdlineRecentSightings.aspx?Birdline=5>].

- Return to [Links to Chapter Contents](#) for References, Addresses, Website
- Return to [Links to Chapters with Additional Information](#)

Disclaimer

Disclaimer: The authors have no financial interest in any of the recommendations listed in this book. These recommendations are made in good faith and are intended

as a guide only. The authors do not accept any responsibility for any risk or damage resulting from the information contained and individuals should satisfy themselves that the guides and accommodations listed have the necessary permits and insurance.

Indices to Birds, Locations, Other Wildlife

Links to Indices

- [Index to Bird Names](#)
- [Index to Location Names](#)
- [Index to Photos of Other Wildlife](#)

Index to Bird Names

- [Return to Getting Started](#)
- [Return to About Main Section 2: Birds](#)

This is an index to generic common names of birds. If there are several species in this book that share the name, e.g. Honeyeater, the link will take you to the family links so that you can select which one you want; if there is only one, the link will take you directly to it e.g. Bee-eater to Rainbow Bee-eater.

A

[Apostlebird](#)
[Avocet](#)

B

[Babbler](#)
[Baza](#)
[Bee-eater](#)
[Bellbird](#)
[Bittern](#)
[Boatbill](#)
[Booby](#)
[Bowerbird](#)
[Brolga](#)
[Bronze-Cuckoo](#)
[Bronzewing](#)
[Brush-turkey](#)
[Budgerigar](#)
[Bush-hen](#)
[Bushlark](#)
[Bustard](#)
[Butcherbird](#)
[Button-quail](#)
[Buzzard](#)

C

[Cassowary](#)
[Catbird](#)
[Chat](#)
[Chough](#)
[Chowchilla](#)
[Cicadabird](#)
[Cisticola](#)
[Cockatiel](#)
[Cockatoo](#)
[Coot](#)
[Corella](#)

Cormorant
Coucal
Crake
Crane
Crow
Cuckoo
Cuckoo-Dove
Cuckoo-shrike
Curlew
Also Stone-curlew
Currawong

D

Darter
Dollarbird
Dotterel
Dove
Dowitcher
Drongo
Duck
Dunlin

E

Eagle
Egret
Emu

F

Fairy-wren
Falcon
Fantail
Fernwren
Figbird
Fig-Parrot
Finch
Firetail (Finch)
Flycatcher (Monarch)
Flycatcher (Lemon-bellied)
Friarbird
Frigatebird
Frogmouth
Fruit-Dove

G

Galah
Gannet
Garganey
Gerygone
Giant-Petrel

Godwit
Goose (Magpie)
Goshawk
Grassbird
Grebe
Greenshank
Ground Thrush
Gull

H

Hardhead
Harrier
Heron
Hobby
Honeyeater

I

Ibis
Imperial-Pigeon

J

Jabiru
Jacana
Jacky Winter

K

Kestrel
Kingfisher
Kite
Knot
Koel
Kookaburra

L

Lapwing
Lorikeet

M

Magpie
Magpie-lark
Mannikin
Martin
Miner
Mistletoebird
Monarch
Moorhen
Myna

N

Native-hen
Needletail
Night Heron
Nightjar (Spotted, White-throated)
Nightjar (Large-tailed)
Noddy

O

Oriole
Osprey
Owl (Barn)
Owl (Typical)
Owlet-nightjar
Oystercatcher

P

Paradise-Kingfisher
Pardalote
Parrot
Pelican
Pigeon
Pipit
Pitta
Plover
Pratincole
Pygmy-Goose

Q

Quail

R

Rail
Raven
Redshank
Reed-Warbler
Riflebird
Robin
Rosella
Ruff

S

Sanderling
Sandpiper
Sand Plover
Scrubfowl
Scrubwren
Sea-Eagle
Shearwater
Shelduck

[Shoveler](#)
[Shrike-thrush](#)
[Shrike-tit](#)
[Silvereye](#)
[Sittella](#)
[Snipe](#)
[Songlark](#)
[Sparrow](#)
[Sparrowhawk](#)
[Spinebill](#)
[Spoonbill](#)
[Starling](#)
[Stilt](#)
[Stint](#)
[Stone-curlew](#)
[Stork](#)
[Storm-Petrel](#)
[Sunbird](#)
[Swallow](#)
[Swamphen](#)
[Swan](#)
[Swift](#)
[Swiftlet](#)

T

[Tattler](#)
[Teal](#)
[Tern](#)
[Thick-knee](#) ([Stone-curlew](#))
[Thornbill](#)
[Thrush](#)
[Treecreeper](#)
[Triller](#)
[Tropicbird](#)
[Turnstone](#)

W

[Wagtail](#) ([Grey](#), [Yellow](#))
[Wagtail](#) ([Willie](#))
[Warbler](#) ([Gerygone](#))
[Weebill](#)
[Whimbrel](#)
[Whipbird](#)
[Whistler](#)
[Whistling-Duck](#)
[White-eye](#)
[Woodswallow](#)

- [Return to Links to Indices](#)

Index to Location Names

- [Return to Getting Started](#)

A

[Abattoir Swamp](#)
[Abergowrie State Forest](#)
[Adels Grove](#)
[Alligator Creek](#)
[Alva Beach](#)
[Anderson Park](#)
[Atherton Tableland](#)
[Atherton](#)
[Australian Institute of Marine Sciences](#)
[Ayr](#)

B

[Babinda](#)
[Balgol Beach](#)
[Big Crystal Creek](#)
[Big Mitchell Creek](#)
[Billabong Sanctuary](#)
[Bilyana Rest Area](#)
[Bingil Bay](#)
[Birthday Creek Falls](#)
[Black Mountain Road](#)
[Bluewater Forest](#)
[Boojamulla National Park](#)
[Boulders, The](#)
[Bowen](#)
[Bowling Green Bay National Park](#)
[Bramston Beach](#)
[Broadwater Creek](#)
[Bromfield Swamp](#)
[Bush Garden](#)
[Bushland Beach](#)

C

[Cairns](#)
[Cairns Botanic Gardens](#)
[Cairns Central Swamps](#)
[Cairns Esplanade](#)
[Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park](#)
[Cardwell](#)
[Castle Hill](#)
[Cathedral Fig Tree](#)

Cattana Wetlands
Centenary Lakes
Chillagoe-Mungana Caves National Park
Cleveland Bay
Clump Mountain National Park
Copperload Falls Dam
Coquette Point
Crater Lakes National Park
Crater, The
Cromarty
Crystal Cascades
Cumberland Dam
Cungulla
Curtain Fig National Park

D

Daintree National Park
Daintree River
Danbulla National Park and State Forest
Davies Creek National Park
Dungeness
Dunk Island

E

Edmonton
Edmund Kennedy National Park
Elinjaa Falls
Ella Bay
Etty Bay
Eubenangee Swamp National Park

F

Five Mile Creek
Flecker Botanic Gardens
Flying Fish Point

G

Georgetown
Gillies Highway
Giru
Girramay National Park
Girringun National Park
Glenoma Park
Goldsborough Valley
Goomboora Park
Grandis Forest
Granite Gorge
Green Island
Gulf Savannah

H

Hallorans Hill Conservation Park
Hasties Swamp National Park
Henrietta Creek
Herberton Range National Park
Hinchinbrook Island National Park
Hodel Road
Hull River National Park

I

Ingham
Innisfail
Ivan Evans Walk

J

James Cook University Townsville Campus
Jerona Road
Josephine Falls
Jourama Falls
Jubilee Highway
Julatten

K

Kaban
Kaila Swamp
Karumba
Kennedy Track
Kuranda

L

Lacey Creek Day-use Area
Lake Barrine
Lake Eacham
Lake Euramoo
Lake Mitchell
Lake Morris
Lake Paluma
Lake Ross
Lake Tinaroo
Lawn Hill
Licuala Day-use Area
Longlands Gap
Lower Freshwater Road
Low Isles
Lucinda Point

M

Magnetic Island
Malanda

Malanda Falls Conservation Park
Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway
Mangrove Boardwalk
Mareeba Wetlands
Mareeba
Mary Farms
Michaelmas Cay National Park
Millaa Millaa
Millaa Millaa Falls
Mission Beach
Moorrinya National Park
Morris Creek Boat Ramp
Mobo Creek Crater
Molongle Creek
Mossman Gorge
Mount Bartle Frere
Mount Carbine
Mount Elliot
Mount Hypipamee National Park
Mount Lewis National Park
Mount Molloy
Mount Whitfield Conservation Park
Mount Zero
Mourilyan Harbour
Mullers Lagoon
Murray Falls

N

Nardellos Lagoon
Newell Beach
Normanton

O

Orient, The

P

Palmetum
Paluma
Paluma Dam
Paluma, Inland Route
Paluma Range National Park
Pelican Point

Q

Queens Gardens

R

Redden Island
Reed Beds Road

[Rockingham Bay Range](#)
[Ross River](#)
[Ross River Dam](#)

S

[Skyrail](#)
[South Mission Beach](#)

T

[Taravale](#)
[The Boulders](#)
[The Bush Garden](#)
[The Crater National Park](#)
[The Orient](#)
[Thorsborne Trail](#)
[Tinaburra Peninsula](#)
[Tinaroo](#)
[Toolakea Beach](#)
[Toomulla Beach](#)
[Toonpan](#)
[Townsville Common Conservation Park](#)
[Townsville](#)
[Tully](#)
[Tully Gorge](#)
[Tyto Wetlands](#)

U

[Undara Volcanic National Park](#)

W

[Walkamin](#)
[Wallaman Falls](#)
[Wonga Beach](#)
[Wongabel State Forest](#)
[Woodstock](#)
[Wooroonooran National Park](#)
[Wrights Creek](#)

Y

[Yorkeys Knob](#)
[Yungaburra](#)

Z

[Zillie Falls](#)

- [Return to Links to Indices](#)

Index to Photos of Other Wildlife

- [Return to Getting Started](#)
- [Return to About Main Section 2: Birds](#)

[Agile Wallaby](#)
[Allied Rock Wallaby](#)
[Amethystine Python](#)
[Cairns Birdwing](#)
[Estuarine Crocodile](#)
[Fawn-footed Melomys](#)
[Freshwater Crocodile](#)
[Green Ringtail Possum](#)
[Green Tree Frog](#)
[Koala](#)
[Lace Monitor](#)
[Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo](#)
[Musky Rat-kangaroo](#)
[Northern Brown Bandicoot](#)
[Platypus](#)
[Sand Goanna](#)
[Saw-shelled Turtle](#)
[Water Dragon](#)

- [Return to Links to Indices](#)