

Birdwatching in Townsville

The Townsville Region of North Queensland, is Australia's best-kept birdwatching secret. Over 375 species of birds have been recorded in and around city. This is about half of the bird species recorded in Australia.

The Dry Tropics of the Townsville region offers a dramatic range of habitats, from mangroves, wetlands, grasslands, eucalypt woodlands to tropical rainforests, all within a day trip from the city.

Wetland Birds

The *Townsville Town Common Conservation Park* (Town Common) is a must for all birdwatchers visiting Townsville.

During the November to March wet season, crowds of water fowl are attracted to the flooded, swampy land. From May to October the delta dries out and becomes home for dry land birds and species migrating north to breed.

Where the Ross and Bohle rivers meander to the sea the rich mangrove forests, salt flats and lagoons are home to many different water and shore birds.

Wetland birds are common on Magnetic Island in the mangroves and the lagoon at Horseshoe Bay.

Look for (*Brolga, Australian Bustard, Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy-Goose, Comb-crested Jacana, Swamp Harrier, Red-backed Fairy-wren and Egret Species.*)

Seabirds

The 20 minute ferry trip to Magnetic island provides an ideal opportunity to look for sea birds including the *Brown Booby, Pied Cormorant, Crested and Lesser Crested Terns*. Enjoy a few days exploring this lovely tropical retreat and become familiar with upto 250 species of common tropical birds.

Look for seabirds on your day trip to the Great Barrier Reef, approximately 40 kilometres offshore.

Look for (*Great and Lesser Frigatebird, Wedge-tailed Shearwater and Tern Species*).

Open Woodland:

On the city's western outskirts you can easily found open woodland birds. Ideal birding locations include James Cook University of North Queensland campus, the road to Mount Stewart, the road from Woodstock to Giru, the Charters Towers road and the forests behind Paluma. Stay at the Hidden Valley Cabins where you can explore the heart of the woodland forests.

Look For Black Kite, Whistling Kite,

Rainforest:

For a cool change visit the rich lush tropical rainforests high on the ridges of the Paluma Range about 1.5 hours drive north of Townsville. Walk the rainforest tracks in the *Paluma Range National Park* and *Mount Spec National Park*.

Enjoy refreshments at the Ivy Cottage tea house located in the small community of Paluma.

Look For Victoria's Riflebird, Golden Bowerbird, Spotted Catbird, Chowchilla, MacLeay's Honeyeater and many more of our rainforest endemics

CAN YOU FIND?

List and illustrations of 6 common birds in Townsville

Black Kite

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo

Rainbow Lorikeet

Noisy Friarbird, Helmeted Friarbird, Little Friarbird

Yellow-bellied Sunbird

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

MAPS

1. Locations 1 - 5

2. Locations 6 - 12

For more information about birdwatching in Townsville:

Wieneke, J. Ed. 1989 *Birds of Townsville and Where to Find Them* Wildlife

Preservation Society of Queensland

1996 *Birds of Magnetic Island*

Birdwatching and Nature Tours

Birds and Bush Tours

Ph/Fax: 07 4721-6489

Sunbird Tours Magnetic Island

Ph: 07 4758-1211 Fax: 07 4758-1211

**Townsville Birdwatching
FACT SHEET**

Dec 1999

	<i>Location</i>	<i>What to look for</i>	<i>Open Woodland</i>	<i>Wetlands</i>	<i>Rainforest</i>	<i>Coastal</i>	<i>Marine</i>
1	Anderson Park	Black-faced Monarch (winter) Grey Fantail (winter) Great Bowerbirds and their bower, Yellow and White throated Honey eater, White-brown Crakes	*				
2	The Townsville Conservation Park (Town Common)	Bustards, Red-backed fairy wrens, brolgas and many waterbirds, Brown-backed Honey eaters, Golden headed Cisticolas	*	*		*	
	Bush Garden	Pacific Baza, Rufus-throated honey eaters	*	*			
	Palmeatum	Azure and Little Kingfishers, Barking Owls					
	Queens Gardens	Great Bower bird and its bower, Pied Imperial Pigeon in summer, White gaped Honey eaters, Whistling Kite nest					
3	Ross River and Ross River Dam	Egret species, Royal Spoonbills, Black Necked Stork, Cormorants, Comb Crested Jacuna, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead and Darter, Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Large billed Gerygones		*			
4	Ross River Breeding Colony	The largest joint White Ibis and Black Flying Fox breeding colony in Australia. Australian White Ibis, Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Mangrove Gerygones,		*			
5	Campus of James Cook University of North Queensland	Great Bowerbirds, Brush Turkeys, Bush Stone Curlew, Pale headed Rosellas	*				
6	Magnetic Island	Many local and migrant species including the White eared Monarch, Pied Imperial Pigeons in summer	*	*		*	*
7	Billabong sanctuary	Waterbirds, Magpie Geese, Brolgas even in the dry season	*	*			
8	Woodstock to Giru road	Squatter Pigeons, Plum headed Finches, Metallic Starling in summer	*	*			
9	Bowling Green Bay National Park.	White-browed Robins, Lewins Honey eaters, White-rumped Swiftlet, Cicadabird, Scarlet Honeyeater, Large-billed Gerygone, Plum-headed Finches. Wallabies and goannas are common	*	*	*	*	
10	Paluma Range National Park	Most North queensland rainforest birds and the wet sclerophyll forest west of Paluma	*		*		
11	Reef Trip	Crested and Lesser Crested Tern and the Brown Booby					*
12	Bluewater and Clemant State Forest	Yellow-breasted Boatbills and other rainforest and woodland species (contact ranger)			*		