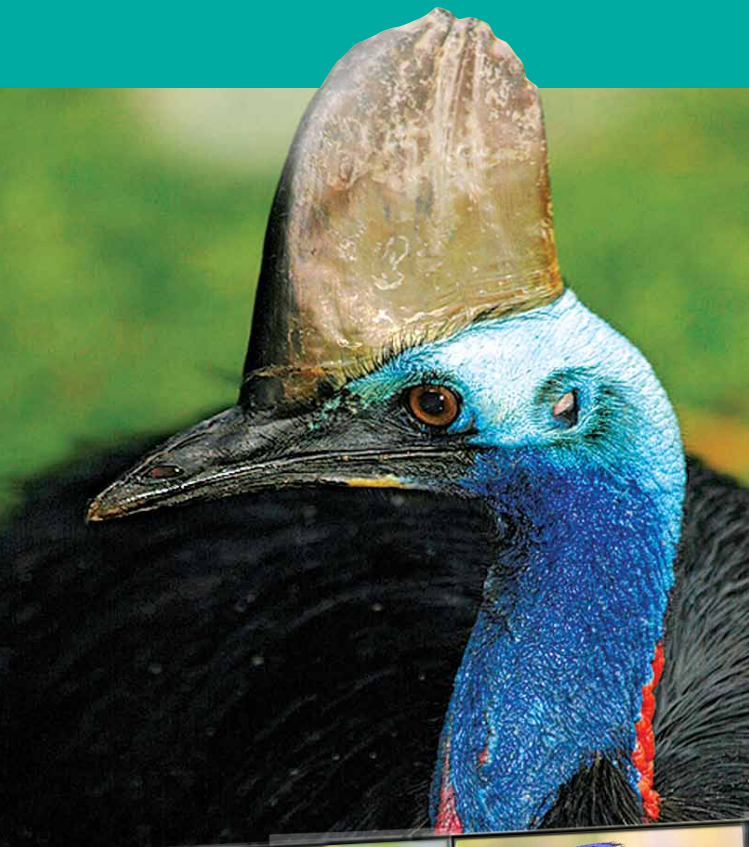


# BIRD TRAILS

## TROPICAL QUEENSLAND

Daintree • Cairns • Tablelands • Townsville



[www.birdingtropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdingtropicalaustralia.com.au)

# The Birdwatching capital of Australia!

Rainforests, mountains, outback, swamps, lakes, parks, mudflats, mangroves, beaches and reef... It is no wonder that so many birds call North Queensland home with such a variety of habitats to choose from. In fact this area has the largest avifauna of any region in Australia. The North Queensland region alone is home to over 450 species of birds and 12 of these are local endemics.

Whatever time of year you decide to visit there will always be plenty of birds to see. October to April is the time when the migrant species from Papua New Guinea including the beautiful Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, Channel-billed Cuckoo and Eastern Koel are here. Many birds such as Noisy Pitta are also breeding at this time of year and are easier to observe as they search for food. During our cooler, drier, winter months of May-Sept, the Victoria's Riflebirds are displaying and winter breeders such as White-eared Monarch can be easier to see.

To supplement your birding there is also a whole host of other wildlife and environmental related activities available in the region. Go out for a day on the Reef to visit the seabird breeding colony at Michaelmas Cay off Cairns where you can also snorkel, dive and go reef viewing.

This brochure will help you plan and undertake an unforgettable bird watching holiday in Tropical Australia. There are great birdwatching sites from Daintree in the north, Cairns Coast and Highlands to Townsville in the south.

## Support tools for self-drive Birdwatchers

For self-guided birding, visit [www.birdingtropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdingtropicalaustralia.com.au) and follow the link on the website to download the FREE iPhone app. On the website and inside each page of the app you will find descriptions on bird sites, recommended places to stay and local birding tour guides and tours.

You will find information and locations of the regions birds, including the 12 endemics, which will feature both images and their calls. Use the Google maps GPS function to guide you to the most productive birdwatching locations where your targeted species can be found or the nearest birding accommodation and tour. Discover the answers to frequently asked questions. Stay at specialist 'Bird Specialist' or 'Bird Friendly' accommodation to enjoy all the resources and expertise for a successful birding holiday.

Join a wildlife tour with any of our experienced guides to fully appreciate the huge diversity of birds and other wildlife in our region and learn about the habitats they live in.

We hope these supporting tools assist you to have a wonderful birdwatching experience in Tropical North Queensland.

# Birdwatching Tours

## **Alan's Wildlife Tours**

Alan Gillanders is a natural history generalist with a particular passion for birds and nocturnal mammals who finds the local endemics and iconic species.

Phone: 07 4095 3784      [www.alanswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.alanswildlifetours.com.au)

## **Birding Naturally**

Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands has local birding specialists for 3 hour morning 'Early Birders' tours, private guiding and the Cairns Highlands Bird Week.

Phone: 1800 788 755      [www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au](http://www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au)

## **Close-up Birding Adventures**

David 'Chook' Crawford operates birding tours to Cape York, Daintree, Tablelands and further afield from 1/2 days to extended tours.

Phone: 07 4094 1068      [www.closeupbirding.com.au](http://www.closeupbirding.com.au)

## **Fine Feathers Tours**

Del Richards offers a range of half and full day birdwatching tours from the Daintree River to Julatten, Mt Lewis and the Hinterland.

Phone: 07 4094 1199      [www.finefeathertours.com.au](http://www.finefeathertours.com.au)

## **Red Mill House**

Naturalist guides Ellen Terrell or Carol Iles are available for birdwatching outings using guests' transport.

Phone: 07 4098 6233      [www.redmillhouse.com.au](http://www.redmillhouse.com.au)

## **Cassowary Tours**

Expert and experienced guides offer a wide range of day trips or fully accommodated tours around Tropical Far North Queensland and through Sicklebill Safaris the rest of Australia and overseas.

Phone: 07 4093 7318      [www.sicklebillsafaris.com](http://www.sicklebillsafaris.com)

## **Wildwatch Australia**

Offers the visitor unparalleled opportunities for bird watching and viewing native wildlife in a diversity of habitats.

Phone: 07 4097 7408      [www.wildwatch.com.au](http://www.wildwatch.com.au)

# Birdwatching Cruises

## **Daintree Boatman Nature Tours**

The 'Daintree Boatman', Murray Hunt, is a professional and passionate birdwatcher. He provides cruises on the Daintree River and 4WD birding tours of the local area.

Phone: 0417 651 929      [www.daintreerivertours.com.au](http://www.daintreerivertours.com.au)

## **Daintree River Experience**

Small, personalised tours providing sunrise and sunset cruises on the Daintree River with opportunities for birdwatching and photography.

Phone: 0408 426 544      [www.daintreecruise.com.au](http://www.daintreecruise.com.au)

## **Daintree River Wildwatch**

Small, personalised tours operated by Ian 'Sauce' Worcester provide excellent sunrise and sunset birdwatching and photographic opportunities.

Phone: 07 4098 6278      [www.daintreeriverwildwatch.com.au](http://www.daintreeriverwildwatch.com.au)

# Bird Specialist Accommodation

## Highlands

### **Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands (Bird Specialist)**

Luxury tented safari cabins in a 2000ha wildlife refuge. Walking trails, ecocruising and birding tours available with experienced bird guides..

Phone: 1800 788 755      [www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au](http://www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au)

### **Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge (Bird Specialist)**

Self-contained units in a 12 acre rainforest nature reserve. Also bunkhouse and camping ground. Easy access to Mt Lewis. Guiding, morning and night walks available.

Phone: 07 4094 1263      [www.birdwatchers.com.au](http://www.birdwatchers.com.au)

### **Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat (Bird Specialist)**

Self-contained Treehouses, secluded in 230 acres of rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest with restaurant, private walking tracks and birding tours available.

Phone: 07 4096 8360      [www.rosegums.com.au](http://www.rosegums.com.au)

## Daintree

### **Red Mill House (Bird Specialist)**

Long-established birdwatching B&B in Daintree village with large gardens and pond. Ideal for exploring the Daintree River and surrounds.

Phone: 07 4098 6233      [www.redmillhouse.com.au](http://www.redmillhouse.com.au)

### **Bloomfield Lodge (Bird Friendly)**

Enchanting and remote, this rainforest hideaway is one of Australia's most exclusive retreats with gourmet dining and guided birdwatching tours.

Phone: 07 4055 7158      [www.bloomfieldlodge.com.au](http://www.bloomfieldlodge.com.au)

## Coastal

### **Cassowary House (Bird Specialist)**

Naturalists guest house within World-heritage rainforest at Kuranda near Cairns to explore coast and highlands. Cassowaries and Riflebirds are frequent visitors.

Phone: 07 4093 7318      [www.cassowary-house.com.au](http://www.cassowary-house.com.au)

### **Thala Beach Lodge (Bird Friendly)**

5 Star eco lodge with a glorious beach and rainforest setting close to the natural attractions of Cairns, Port Douglas & the Great Barrier Reef.

Phone: 07 4098 5700      [www.thalabeach.com.au](http://www.thalabeach.com.au)

### **Villa Marine Apartments (Bird Friendly)**

Beach-side fully self-contained apartments located in Yorkeys Knob in a rainforest setting just 50m from the beach and just 10 minutes north of Cairns.

Phone: 07 4055 7158      [www.villamarineapartments.com.au](http://www.villamarineapartments.com.au)

## Southern

### **Hidden Valley Cabins (Bird Friendly)**

Australian Tourism Award winning eco resort located 1&1/2 hours northwest of Townsville, on the western slope of the Paluma range.

Phone: 1800 466 509      [www.hiddenvalleycabins.com.au](http://www.hiddenvalleycabins.com.au)

# Bird Friendly Attractions

## Daintree Discovery Centre

**Open 7 days year round: 8.30am - 5.30pm. Entry fee: \$28 adult.**

Interpretive facility that allows visitors easy access to the rainforest via boardwalk tours, a 23 metre high Canopy Tower, Aerial Walkway and Display Centre.

Phone: 07 4098 9171

[www.daintree-rec.com.au](http://www.daintree-rec.com.au)

## Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetlands Reserve

**Open 7 days April to December: 9am - 4pm. Guided access available outside these hours. \$9 Conservation Pass access to walks.**

Interpretive facility with ecocruises, bird hides, interpretive information, self-guided walks, café, birding tours, canoes, and safari lodge.

Phone: 1800 788 755

[www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au](http://www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au)

## Tyto Wetlands

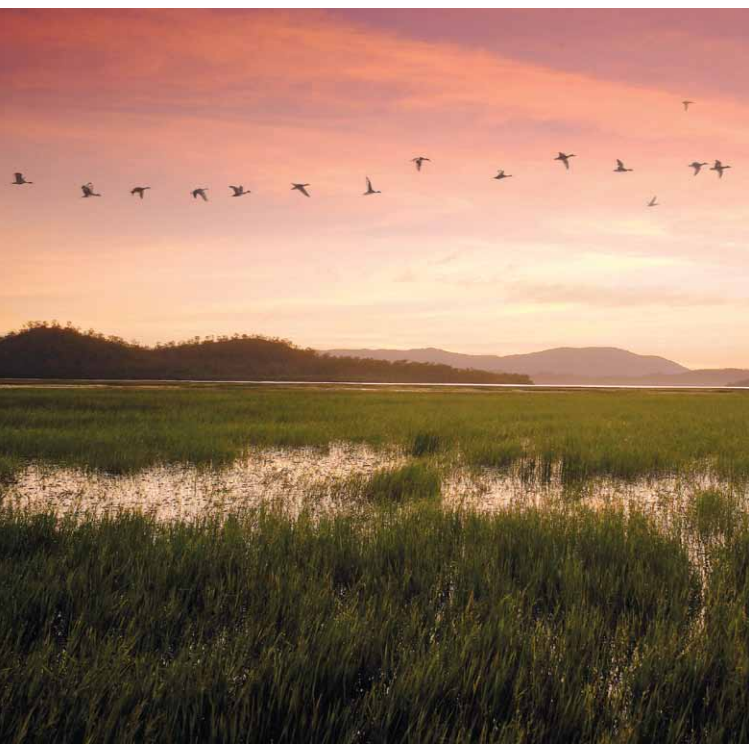
**Open 7 days year round: 8.45am - 5pm weekdays, 9am-4pm weekends.**

**Free entry.**

Tyto is a unique experience incorporating lagoons, interpretive signs, walking trails, hides and lookouts where visitors can appreciate over 200 different species of native birds amongst other wildlife.

Phone: 07 4776 4600

[www.tytowetlands.com.au](http://www.tytowetlands.com.au)



# Townsville Region to Mission Beach

With more than 400 recorded bird species, the Townsville North Queensland region provides bird watchers access to a diverse array of habitats within easy driving distance from Townsville City.

From the pristine wetlands of the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook regions, to the world heritage-listed rainforests of Paluma, and the open woodlands and Brigalow (Acacia) forests of the Outback, this tropical region is alive with some of the world's most impressive birdlife.

Walking trails around Paluma and lake, allow bird watchers to explore the depths of World Heritage-listed rainforest for potential sightings of Golden Bowerbird, Tooth-billed Bowerbird and Victoria's Riflebird. Driving west from Paluma on-route to Hidden Valley, the vegetation gradually changes replacing rainforest with magnificent eucalypts woodlands, supporting an array of woodland bird species, including the vibrant Scarlet Honeyeater, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Square-tailed Kite.

Tyto Wetlands features lagoons, interpretive signs, hides and lookouts where bird watchers can appreciate over 230 different bird species as well as a plethora of other native wildlife and flora.

Surrounded by open savannah woodlands, Brigalow forests, grasslands and ephemeral lakes, bird watching around Charters Towers provides a unique opportunity for sighting many of Australia's endemic open country bird species all within a short drive from the east coast.

## 1. Burdekin Falls Dam

Habitat: Large water body in dry woodland. Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Spotted Bowerbird. Approximately 80 kilometres south of Ravenswood, along Burdekin Falls Dam Road.

## 2. Horseshoe Lagoon

Habitat: Permanent deep water with grass at the edges leading into cane fields. Magpie Goose, Black Swan, Cotton Pygmy-Goose, White-browed Crake. Approximately 55kms south of Townsville, turn-off the Bruce Highway onto Hodel Road for 2km's.

## 3. Cromerty Wetlands

Habitat: Agricultural grassland, ephemeral and permanent wetlands, riparian forest and tropical savannah woodland. Brolga, Black Swan, Magpie Goose, Crimson Finch. Approximately 40km south of Townsville, along Cromarty Siding Road.

## 4. Cungulla Bay

Habitat: Sand mud flats. Whimbrel, Terek Sandpiper, Grey Plover. Turn east onto Cape Cleveland Road, approximately 30km south of Townsville along the Bruce Highway. Follow for approximately 4km's, then turn onto Carty Road and follow to the township of Cungulla.

## 5. Alligator Creek, Bowling Green National Park

Habitat: Woodland with a fringe of rainforest. Australian Owlet-Nightjar, Large-billed Gerygone, Scarlet Honeyeater, Whitebrowed Robin. Turn off the Bruce Highway 28 kilometres south of Townsville or 59 kilometres north of Ayr. Drive 6 kilometres.

## 6. Lake Ross

Habitat: Shallow lake surrounded by open savannah. Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Little Black Cormorant. Ross River Road, Townsville QLD.

## 7. The Townsville Town Common

Habitat: Tidal estuaries fringed with mangroves, grasslands and swamps, woodlands and vine thickets. Magpie Geese, Australian Bustard, Pheasant Coucal, Brolga. 6km north of Townsville City centre. The park opens from 6.30am to 6.30pm daily and is reached by turning inland off Cape Pallarenda Road near the Rowes Bay Golf Club.

## 8. Magnetic Island

Habitat: Coastal. Osprey, Bush Stone-curlew, Helmeted Friarbird, Sandpipers. A 25-minute ferry ride from Townsville.

## 9. Townsville's Palmetum

Habitat: Mature botanic garden linked to walks along Ross River. White-browed Robin, Oriental Cuckoo, Barking Owl. Travelling South along Nathan Street (Bruce Highway) from Stocklands Shopping Centre, cross the Ross River. The entrance is located 300m on the left after the bridge.

## 10. Charters Towers Weir

Habitat: A large water body in dry woodland. Rufous-throated Honeyeater, Darter. Approximately 13 km's North-east of Charters Towers along Weir Road.

## 11. Lake Pawlathanga

Habitat: Large ephemeral lake and after a good wet season supports an extremely wide range of waterfowl, often in large numbers. Approximately 40km's south-west of Charters Towers along Flinders Highway. Access via township of Balfes Creek, along unsealed Braceborough Rd.

## 12. Toomba Lake

Habitat: Lake. Black Swan, Pink-eared Duck. North-west of Charters Towers along Gregory Development Road. Turn west onto Gainsford-Glencoe Road en-route to the Great Basalt Wall N.P. and follow for approximately 58km's.

## 13. Bluff Downs Station

Habitat: Savannah woodland in pastoral country. Red-winged Parrot, Apostlebird. Approximately 80 km's north of Charters Towers along the Gregory Developmental Rd turn west onto unsealed Hillgrove Niall Rd, and follow for approximately 30km.

## 14. Lolworth Station

Habitat: Perennial stream on the edge of grasslands. Varied Sittella, White-winged Chough. North-west of Charters Towers along the Flinders Highway. At Pentland, turn north on to the unsealed Pentland Gregory Springs Road, and follow for approximately 70km's.

## 15. Valley of Lagoons

Habitat: A series of basalt sinkholes and extensive ephemeral wetlands set in savannah woodland. Cotton Pygmy-Goose, Comb-crested Jacana. Follow Lava Plains-Mount Fox Rd, (unsealed) off the Gregory Development Road, approximately 45km's south of the Lynd Junction.

## 16. Paluma

Habitat: Mountain top Wet Tropics World Heritage rainforest. Victoria's Riflebird, Macleay's Honeyeater. Approximately 60 kilometres north of Townsville (40km south of Ingham), clearly sign posted. Turn west onto the Mount Spec Road.

### **17. Lake Paluma**

Habitat: Upland rainforest surrounding the Lake. Golden Bowerbird, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Topknot Pigeon, Crimson Rosella. Approximately 15 kilometre from Paluma, along Paluma Dam Road.

### **18. Hidden Valley**

Habitat: Tall woodland of blue gums and other eucalypts. Scarlet Honeyeater, Square-tailed Kite, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Crested Shrike-tit, Spotted Pardalote, Little Lorikeet and Eastern Yellow Robin and the rarely seen Large-tailed Nightjar and White-throated Nightjar. Approximately 25km west of Paluma along Hidden Valley Road.

### **19. Jourama Falls**

Habitat: The lower skirts of the rainforest that lead up to Paluma have a diverse range of rainforest species. Rufous Owl, Noisy Pitta, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Yellow-breasted Boatbill. Turn off the Bruce Highway 24km south of Ingham, or 91km north of Townsville, along Jourama Road.

### **20. Tyto Wetlands**

Habitat: Wetland. Interpretive and Visitor Information Centre set by a lagoon with walking trails and hides. Little Bittern, Crimson Finch, Eastern Grass Owl. Bruce Highway, Ingham.

### **21. Wallaman Falls**

Habitat: High altitude rainforest and tall eucalypt forest. Southern Cassowary, Bridled Honeyeater, Red Goshawk. 51km south-west of Ingham. Turn-off the Bruce Highway in Ingham and follow the tourism signs through Trebonne to Wallaman Falls.

### **22. Broadwater State Forest**

Habitat: Mix of woodland, rainforest and open picnic ground. Pied Monarch, Yellow Oriole, Noisy Pitta. Take the Trebonne road west from Ingham for 45km and is well signposted and sealed for much of the way.

### **23. Edmund Kennedy National Park**

Habitat: Extensive mudflats. Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Pied Imperial-Pigeon, Lovely Fairy-wren. Turn off the Bruce Highway 4km north of Cardwell and drive 1km along Clift Road to the park entrance.

### **24. Meunga Creek Mouth**

Habitat: Beach and tidal mud flats. Beach Stone-curlew, Collared Kingfisher, Mangrove Robin. Access from Cardwell along the Esplanade, or from the North of Cardwell off the Bruce highway, along Clift Road.

### **25. Cardwell Forest Drive**

Habitat: Pine plantations interspersed with rainforest-lined creeks. Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Azure Kingfisher, Little Kingfisher, Lovely Fairy-wren. Turn off Bruce Hwy at Cardwell into Braesnose Street. Follow the road over the railway crossing and then travel straight ahead following the signs.

### **26. Cardwell Esplanade South**

Habitat: Mangrove and coastal vine forests. Mangrove Robin, Varied Honeyeater. Southern end of Cardwell township, off Bruce Highway.

### **27. Murray Falls State Forest**

Habitat: Diverse rainforest habitat. Pied Monarch, Northern Fantail, Grey Whistler & White-eared Monarch. 41km's north-west of Cardwell, just north of the township of Bilyana, turn off the Bruce Highway onto Bilyana Murray Upper Road and follow the signs.



# Cairns Highlands (Atherton Tablelands)

The Cairns Highlands (Atherton Tablelands) are one of Australia's key birding destinations, by visiting the wide range of different habitats to be found here it is possible to see all 12 Tropical North Queensland endemics plus a great selection of the birds and mammals of the Tropical North.

Besides the high altitude forests there are both wet and dry sclerophyll eucalyptus forests which hold dry country species such as Pale-headed Rosella, Red-winged Parrot, Brown Treecreeper and Great Bowerbird.

Wetland areas such as Mareeba Wetlands (open April to January) hold waterfowl, Brolga and Sarus Cranes ( July - October), Squatter Pigeon and Black-throated Finch, and reserves such as Hastie's Swamp NP near Atherton are always worth a look with large numbers of ducks and Magpie Geese when the water levels are right. Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge at Julatten is an easy place to see Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher from November to April, and they often have Papuan Frogmouth, Red-necked Crake and Noisy Pitta in the area.

The Kuranda area, particularly Black Mountain Road, is good for Victoria's Riflebird, and the far north specials such as Southern Cassowary, Spotted Catbird, Red-necked Crake and Lovely Fairywren.

## 28. Wooroonooran National Park

Habitat: Low-mid level tropical rainforest. Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Australian King Parrot, Sooty Owl, Macleay's Honeyeater, Chowchilla, Yellow-breasted Boatbill and Black Butcherbird. 33km along Palmerston Highway from Innisfail.

## 29. Tully Gorge and Tully Falls

Habitat: Rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests. Tooth-billed and Golden Bowerbird, Fernwren, Mountain Thornbill, Bridled Honeyeater, Chowchilla, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Victoria's Riflebird, and Grey-headed Robin, Common Goshawk, White-throated Treecreeper, White-naped Honeyeater and Eastern Whipbird. Tully Falls Road, 34km south of Ravenshoe.

## 30. Longlands Gap

Habitat: High altitude rainforest. Chowchilla, White-cheeked Honeyeater and Eastern Spinebill.

## 31. Kaban

Habitat: Dry sclerophyll forest and forestry plantations. Common Bronzewing, Painted Button-quail, Brown Treecreeper, Yellow Thornbill, Red-browed Pardalote, northern form of Fuscous Honeyeater, Varied Sittella, Crested Shrike-tit, Grey Shrike-thrush and Eastern Yellow Robin. Kaban Road via Herberton.

## 32. Wondecla Showgrounds

Habitat: Bushy creek, a great spot for honeyeaters. White-naped, Scarlet, Banded and White-cheeked Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardalote and White-browed Scrubwren and Little Lorikeet.

## 33. The Crater- Mt Hypipamee National Park

Habitat: High altitude rainforest. Grey-headed Robin, Bridled Honeyeater, Mountain Thornbill, Atherton Scrubwren, Fernwren, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Spotted Catbird and Golden Bowerbird.

## 34. Bromfield Swamp

Habitat: Wetlands. From May to November this is a major roost for Sarus Cranes and Brolga, best at sunset or early morning. Good for raptors and quail.

### **35. Wongabel State Forest**

Habitat: Remnant of endangered mabi rainforest. Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Chowchilla, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Victoria's Riflebird and Grey-headed Robin. Kennedy Highway, 8km south of Atherton.

### **36. Hasties Swamp**

Habitat: Small wetland just outside Atherton. Magpie Goose, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Purple Swamphen, Buff-banded Rail, Swamp and Spotted Harrier, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Kites, Latham's Snipe.

### **37. Mark's Lane and Forsyth Rd**

Habitat: Open potato and maize fields. Sarus Crane, Brolga, Spotted Harrier, Brown Falcon, Australian Bustard, Australian Pratincole. Eastern Barn Owl and Grass Owl.

### **38. Curtain Fig**

Habitat: Mabi rainforest. Wompoo Fruit Dove, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Grey-headed Robin, Brown Gerygone, Large-billed Scrubwren, Pied, Spectacled and Black-faced Monarch, White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler, Eastern Whipbird and all local Cuckoos.

### **39. Peterson Creek**

Habitat: Variety of habitats. Platypus and Tree-Kangaroos a bonus. Eastern, Pale Yellow and Grey-headed Robin. Grey, Rufous and Bower's Shrike-thrush, honeyeaters

### **40. Lake Barrine and Lake Eacham**

Habitat: Crater Lakes National Park. Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Victoria's Riflebird, Eastern Whipbird, Grey-headed Robin, Golden Whistler and White-throated Treecreeper. Great-crested Grebe, Chowchilla, White-eared Monarch, Fernwren and Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot and Barred Cuckoo-shrike.

### **41. Mt Edith Road**

Habitat: This road traverses a range of forest types and is very scenic in places. Fernwren and all 12 local endemics.

### **42. Cathedral Fig Tree**

Habitat: Rainforest and open grasslands. Brown and King Quail, Chowchilla, Topknot and White-headed Pigeon, Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Bowers Shrike-thrush and monarch flycatchers, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Tawny Grassbird, Golden Headed Cisticola, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot and Barred Cuckoo-shrike. Boar Pocket Rd

### **43. Pelican Point**

Habitat: Revegetated woodland, rainforest and grasses on the shores of Lake Tinaroo. Sarus Crane, Cotton and Green Pygmy-goose, Superb Fruit-Dove, Tawny Frogmouth, Black-necked Stork, Ballion's and White-browed Crake, Red-backed and Red-chested Button-quail and Little Grassbird. Foster Road, Kairi.

### **44. Davies Creek (Dindin) National Park**

Habitat: Riparian forest and dry country. Golden Bowerbird.

### **45. Black Mountain Road**

Habitat: Rainforest. Southern Cassowary, Red-necked crane, Superb Fruit Dove, Wompoo fruit Dove, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Victoria's Riflebird, Pied, Spectacled and White-eared Monarch, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Chowchilla and Spotted Catbird. Black Mountain Road, t/o Kennedy Highway near Kuranda.

#### 46. Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve

Habitat: Wetlands and surrounding savannah. Black-necked Stork, Sarus Crane and Brolga, Black-throated Finch, Squatter Pigeon, the Black-backed form of the Brown Treecreeper. Open 9-4.00 April to January or earlier by arrangement with birding tours. Pickford Road, Biboohra t/o Mulligan Highway 6.5km north of Mareeba.

#### 47. Lake Mitchell

Habitat: Extensive wetland. Black Swan, Rajah Shelduck, Black-necked Stork, Pied Heron, Glossy ibis and Painted Snipe, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Spotted Harrier, Swamp Harrier. 22.5km North-West of Mareeba on the Mulligan Highway (Peninsula Development Road).

#### 48. Big Mitchell Creek

Habitat: Riparian Vegetation. South-eastern edge of Big Mitchell Creek has White-browed Robin. Laughing and Blue-winged Kookaburra, Pale-headed Rosella, Fairy and White-throated Gerygone, Northern Fantail and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher. Approximately 20km North-West of Mareeba on the Mulligan Highway (Peninsula Development Road). Don't stray far from the creek as you will enter private property.

#### 49. Mt Molloy

Habitat: Township. Red-winged Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Great Bowerbird, Squatter Pigeon, Blue-faced Honeyeater and Double-barred Finch, Square-tailed Kite and Little Eagle, Fairy Gerygone and Lovely Fairy-wren. Mulligan Highway. 40km north of Mareeba.

#### 50. Maryfarms

Habitat: Savannah. Australian Bustard, Squatter Pigeon, Brown Goshawk, Nankeen Kestrel, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Galah, Red-winged Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Red-backed Kingfisher, Red-backed Fairy-wren and Noisy Friarbird. Mulligan Highway (Peninsula Development Road) approx. 21km north-west of Mount Molloy.

#### 51. Abbatoir Swamp

Habitat: Wetlands. Northern Fantail, large numbers of lorikeets and at least 14 species of honeyeater, White-browed and Spotless Crake. Approximately 4km from Mount Molloy along Highway 44 (Rex Highway) towards Mossman.

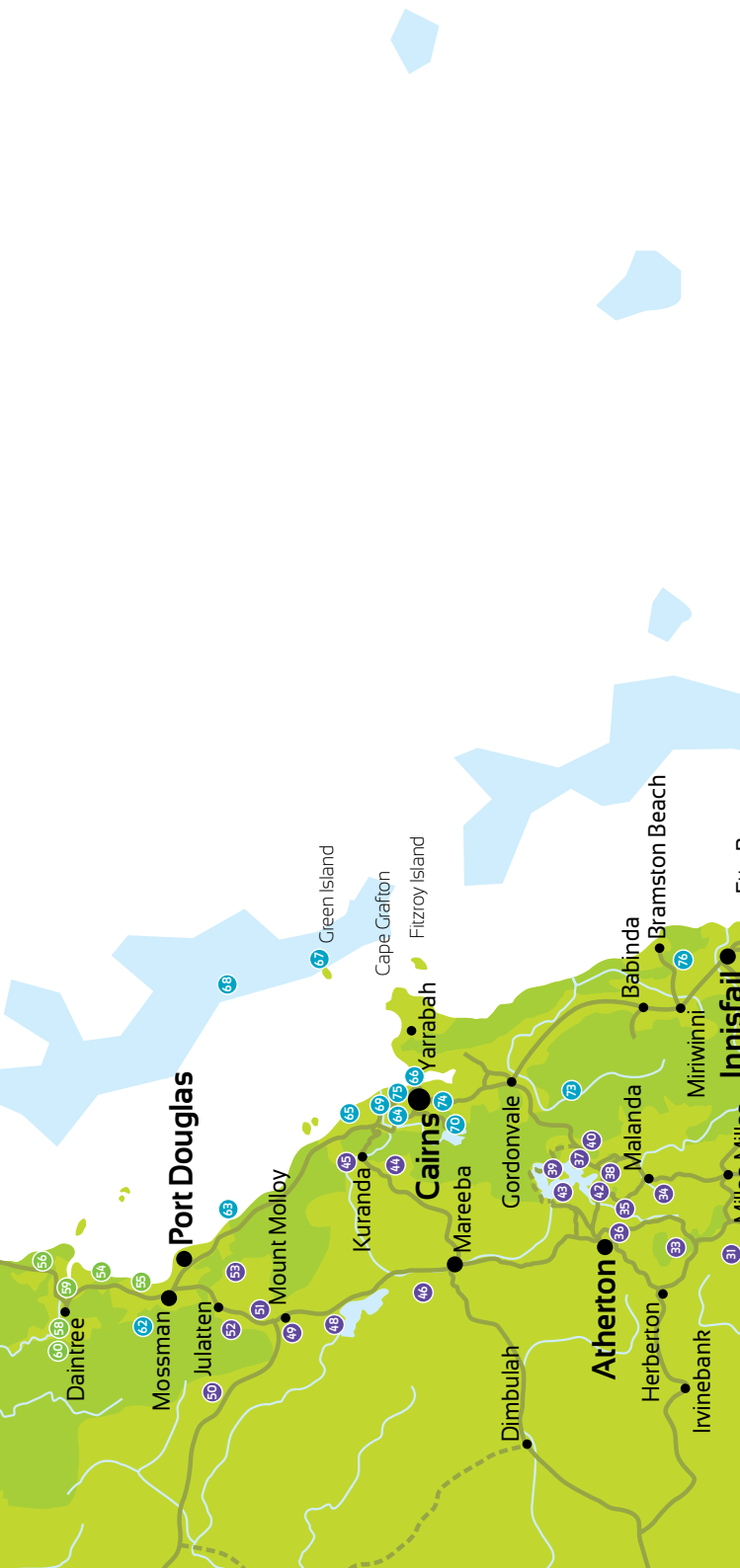
#### 52. Mt Lewis National Park

Habitat: Higher altitude rainforest. All 12 "Wet Tropic" endemic species are found here. Fernwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, Macleay's and Bridled Honeyeater, Grey-headed Robin, Chowchilla, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Pied Monarch, Victoria's Riflebird, Tooth-billed and Golden Bowerbird and Blue-faced Parrot Finch. 10km up Mt Lewis Road, Julatten. Turn off at the Highlander Tavern.

#### 53. Mowbray National Park

Habitat: Rainforest. Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Wompoo and Superb Fruit-Dove, Noisy Pitta, Spotted Catbird, Yellow-breasted Boatbill and Victoria's Riflebird. Pinnacle Road, Julatten.





Daintree

Mossman

Julatten

Mount Molloy

Kuranda

**Cairns**

Mareeba

Dimbulah

Gordonvale

**Artherton**

Herberton

Irvinebank

Green Island

Cape Grafton

Fitzroy Island

Yarrabah

Babinda

Bramston Beach

Miriwinni

**Innisfail**



Etty Bay

Mourilyan

South

Ravenshoe

Innot Hot Springs

Johnstone

Silkwood

El Arish

Koombuloomba Dam

Kurrimine

Mission Beach

Tully

Bilyana

Kennedy

Cardwell

Abergowrie

Trebonne

Wallaman Falls

Dunk Island

Good Island

Hinchinbrook Island

Orpheus Island

Palm Islands

Lucinda

Halifax

Forrest Beach

Ingham

Valley of Lagoons



Ayr

Home Hill

Magnetic Island

Pallarenda

Saunders Beach

Townsville

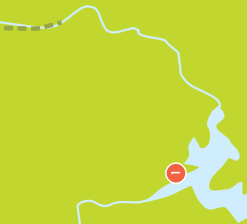
Charters Towers

Paluma

Rollingstone

Hidden Valley

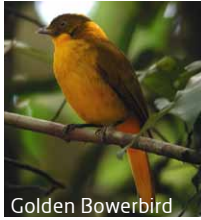
# The region's endemics



Chowchilla



Fernwren



Golden Bowerbird



Grey-headed Robin



Macleay's Honeyeater



Mountain Thornbill



Pied Monarch



Tooth-billed Bowerbird



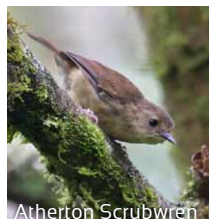
Victoria's Riflebird



Bridled Honeyeater



Bower's Shrike-thrush



Atherton Scrubwren

# Daintree

Daintree has a lot to offer the visiting birder and bird photographer. Daintree is famous for its birdwatching river trips where experienced small boat operators take people out at dawn or dusk. Great-billed Heron, Little Kingfisher and Black Bittern are some of the target species, and are regularly seen on the river.

Other sought-after species include Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Little Bronze-Cuckoo, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, Beach Stone-Curlew, Lovely Fairy-Wren and Yellow Oriole. All sites within the area are easily accessible by 2WD vehicle.

## 54. Wonga Beach

Habitat: Coastal. A reliable Beach Stone-Curlew location and Double-eyed Fig-Parrot. Signposted turn off from Captain Cook Highway to Marlin Drive, Wonga Beach.

## 55. Newell Beach

Habitat: Coastal. Red-rumped Swallow sightings and reliable for Barn Swallow in the summer months. Turn off Mossman Daintree Rd 4.2km north of Mossman.

## 56. Jindalba Boardwalk

Habitat: World Heritage listed Daintree National Park rainforest. Southern Cassowary, Victoria's Riflebird, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Superb Fruit-Dove, Noisy Pitta and a variety of honeyeaters and monarchs. Tulip Oak Rd, Cow Bay 4873.

## 57. Barratt Creek

Habitat: Rainforest creek. Great billed Heron, Azure & Little Kingfisher. Barratt Creek has consistent sightings of Wompoo Fruit-Dove and Double-eyed Fig-Parrot. 3198 Daintree Mossman Rd, Daintree 4873, 3 km south of the Daintree Village.

## 58. Daintree Village

Habitat: Grassland, rainforest, the Daintree River and with extensive parks and gardens. Black Bittern, Azure Kingfisher, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Little Bronze-Cuckoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Forest Kingfisher, Wompoo Fruit-Dove and many others. Access to birdwatching Daintree River Cruises.

## 59. Daintree River

Habitat: Different habitats can be accessed by tour boats from this location. Great-billed Heron, Black Bittern, Little Kingfisher, Papuan Frogmouth, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Azure Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher, White-eared Monarch, Little Bronze-Cuckoo. Stewart Street, 100 metres down hill from the general store, Daintree.

## 60. Stewart Creek Road

Habitat: An 8km drive commencing from Daintree Village following Stewart Creek. The road covers grassland, lowland rainforest, riparian and wetland habitats. Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Azure Kingfisher, Black Bittern, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Great-billed Heron, Lovely Fairy-Wren, monarchs, Red-necked Crake and a variety of raptors. Stewart Creek Road, Daintree.

## 61. Upper Daintree Road

Habitat: Daintree River upstream from Stewart Creek Bridge for approximately 8 km and passing through varied habitats. Channel-billed Cuckoo, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot and Eastern Koel. Rainbow Bee-Eater, Dollarbird, Pale-vented Bush Hen, Black-necked Stork, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, all egrets and several raptors all commonly seen. Upper Daintree Rd.



# Coastal Region

## Port Douglas to Mission Beach

The coast zone of tropical north Queensland extends approximately some 450 km from Port Douglas to Mission Beach, and is the relatively narrow coastal strip between the highly scenic forested slopes of the Great Dividing Range and the sea.

Mangrove sites are quite well represented with one mangrove boardwalk right by Cairns Airport, mangrove fringed creeks and rivers such as those at the Barron and Mossman Rivers, plus sandy beaches, rocky promontories and dry eucalypt woodlands. It is overall an area of outstanding natural beauty with plenty of quiet places to go birding. Easy access to the world famous Great Barrier Reef is also readily organised through operators in all the main urban centres.

### 62. Mossman Gorge, Daintree National Park

Habitat: Dense lowland rainforest with 2.7km loop walking track. Emerald Dove, Wompoo and Superb Fruit-Dove, Papuan Frogmouth, Australian King-Parrot, Noisy Pitta, Spotted Catbird, Fernwren, Macleay's Honeyeater, Grey Whistler, Pied Monarch, Yellow-breasted Boatbill and Metallic Starling (August-March). Gorge Road, Mossman.

### 63. Yule Point

Habitat: Extensive sandflats with a fringing reef which is exposed at low tide. Many migratory shorebirds to be found here including Sanderling which is uncommon in the area. Possible Beach Stone-curlew and Little Tern. Opposite side of highway an old mining track leads into a good birding area within open woodland. Captain Cook Highway, 8km south of junction with Port Douglas intersection.

### 64. Cattana Wetlands

Habitat: A nature Conservation park opened in late 2009. There are a number of boardwalks, walking tracks, bird hides and viewing platforms, picnic areas, interpretive signs, car park, access road and toilet facilities. Green Pygmy-goose, White-browed Crike, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Black Butcherbird and Crimson Finch. Accessed by either Yorkeys Knob Road or McGregor Road, Smithfield.

### 65. Yorkey's Knob Lagoon

Habitat: Small lagoon. Green Pygmy-goose, Wandering and Plumed Whistling-Duck, Australasian Darter and Little Black Cormorant. Wattle Street, Yorkey's Knob, Cairns.

### 66. Redden Island

Habitat: Diverse habitats. Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, seven cuckoo, seven kingfisher and 10 honeyeater species. Marshall and Cinderella Streets, Machans Beach, Cairns.

### 67. Green Island

Habitat: Coral cay. Emerald Dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Pied Imperial Pigeon Grey and white morph Eastern Reef Egret, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Wandering Tattler (rare), Buff-banded Rail. Access via commercial operators. 27km offshore from Cairns on Great Barrier Reef.

### 68. Michaelmas Cay

Habitat: Sand cay. Common Noddy, Sooty Tern, Lesser Crested Tern and Crested Tern. Other species recorded here include: Lesser and Greater Frigatebird, Masked, Red-footed and Brown Booby, Black-naped Tern plus Silver Gull. Access with commercial tour companies, 40km North-East of Cairns on Great Barrier Reef.

### **69. Jack Barnes ( Airport ) Mangrove Boardwalk**

Habitat: Mangroves. Collared Kingfisher, Black Butcherbird, Shining Flycatcher and Mangrove Robin, also good chance of Lovely Fairy-wren. Airport Avenue, Aeroglen, Cairns.

### **70. Lake Morris Copperlode Dam**

Habitat: Rainforest, woodland, grassland and wetland. Southern Cassowary, Noisy Pitta and Victoria's Riflebird, 5 species of Kingfisher, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, White-eared Monarch and finches including Crimson Finch. Lake Morris Road, 16kms from Brinsmead-Reservoir Road junction, Cairns.

### **71. Flecker Gardens**

Habitat: Botanical gardens. Orange-footed Scrubfowl and Noisy Pitta are in the rainforest and the edges of the woodland it is possible to find Lovely Fairy-wren.

### **72. Centenary Lakes**

Habitat: Fresh and saltwater lakes. Red-necked Crake, Black Butcherbird, Magpie Goose, White-browed Crake, Pale-vented Bush-hen and Little Kingfisher.

### **73. Goldsborough Valley**

Habitat: Lowland rainforest. Azure Kingfisher, Yellow-spotted and Graceful Honeyeater, Yellow Oriole, Shining Flycatcher and Yellow-breasted Boatbill. Kearneys Falls track (1.6km return) traverses rainforest. Goldsborough Valley Forestry Road.

### **74. Pioneer Cemetery, Cairns**

Habitat: Urban. Bush Stone-curlew up close. Over 50 individuals have been recorded at one time. James and Little Streets, Cairns.

### **75. Cairns Foreshore**

Habitat: Coastal Esplanade with viewing platforms overlooking the foreshore. Main season for migratory waders is August-April with fewer species at other times of the year.

### **76. Eubenangee Swamp National Park**

Habitat: Wetlands. Black-necked Stork, egret, heron, ibis and Crimson Finch. Channel-billed Cuckoo visit August-March. Cartwright Road, Miriwinni.

### **77. Etty Bay**

Habitat: Coastal. Southern Cassowary, Beach Stone-curlew. The Esplanade, Etty Bay.

### **78. Djiru National Park Lacey Creek**

Habitat: Diverse rainforest and beach. Southern Cassowary, Beach Stone-Curlew. Lacey Creek day-use area is beside the El Arish-Mission Beach road, 8km from the junction with the Bruce Highway and 7.5km from Mission Beach town.

### **79. Djiru National Park Licuala**

Habitat: Fan Palm walk (1.3km circuit). Southern Cassowary, Rose-crowned and Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Chowchilla and Yellow-breasted Boatbill. Link walk to Lacey Creek through lowland rainforest (approx 9kms). 1.6km off Tully to Mission Beach Road, approx. 8km from Mission Beach.

### **80. Licuala State Forest**

Habitat: Diverse rainforest and beach. Southern Cassowary, Black Butcherbird, Chowchilla. Signposted, 9 kilometres along the road to Tully from Mission Beach.



Birdwatching on a Daintree River Cruise



Sacred Kingfisher.

One of the nine Kingfishers that can be seen in the Daintree Valley



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And get your hands on the latest information, bird descriptions, GPS enabled directions to the regions' bird sites, recommended places to stay, local birding tour guides and tours. You will also find locations, images and calls of many of the regions birds, including the 12 endemics.



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Further information on birding in the region, bird lists and a downloadable brochure can be found at

[www.birdingtropicalaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdingtropicalaustralia.com.au)