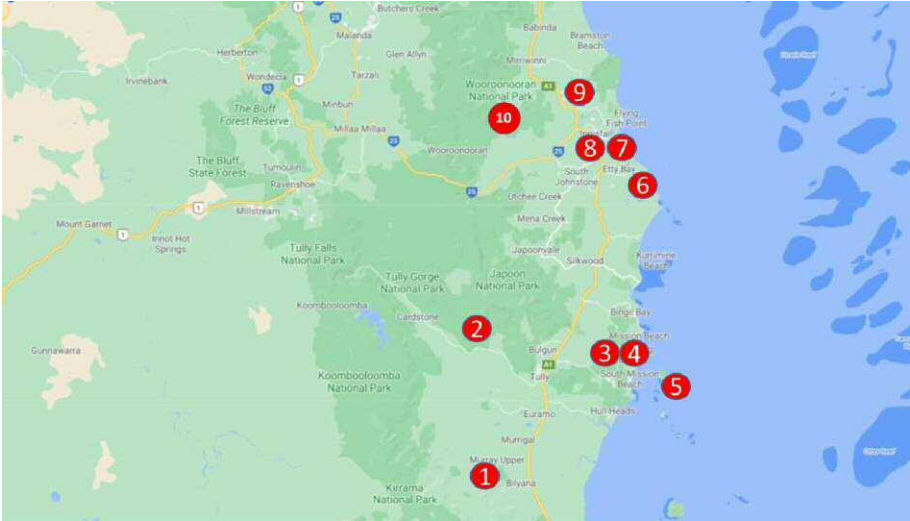


# Cassowary Coast

This area covers the coast around Innisfail and Mission Beach and the adjacent mountainside.



- 1 [Girramay National Park](#)
- 2 [Tully Gorge National Park](#)
- 3 [Djiru National Park](#)
- 4 [Mission Beach](#)
- 5 [Dunk Island](#)
- 6 [Etty Bay](#)
- 7 [Coquette Point](#)
- 8 [Warrina Lakes Botanical Gardens](#)
- 9 [Eubenangee Swamp National Park](#)
- 10 [Woornoonoran National Park](#)

## Girramay National Park

This large, 33,700ha National Park is located 200km south of Cairns, spreading on both sides of Bruce Hwy (A1). It consists of Edmund Kennedy and Murray Falls sections. The lowland section (Edmund Kennedy) contains lowland rainforest, paperbark swamps, wetlands, mangroves and beaches, providing picnic and walking opportunities. The mountainous section (Murray Falls) features clear water cascading over the Murray River boulders and the surrounding lush rainforest. Girramay National Park is part of Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. It was established to protect habitats for the endangered Southern Cassowary and mahogany glider. The latter is the rarest glider in Australia; it was first described in 1883 and rediscovered a hundred years later near Tully.

### *Murray Falls Section*

This area is located at the foothills of Kirrama Ranges. To get there:

- Driving from the north: from Tully travel along Bruce Hwy (A1) for 16km. Turn west into Upper Murray Rd at Murrigal and drive 20km to the Murray Falls Camping Area. The route is well-signposted.
- Driving from the south: travel on Bruce Hwy (A1) for 21km from Cardwell and turn west into Bilyana Rd at Bilyana. Drive to the intersection with Upper Murray Rd and turn left to get to the Murray Falls Camping Area. The route is well-signposted.

Facilities include camping and picnic areas and two walking tracks that are useful to the birders: a 300m River boardwalk to the falls and 1.8km return Yalgay Ginja Bulumi Walk through the rainforest. Other facilities onsite include picnic tables, toilets and a shelter. See the area and camping site maps, downloadable here:

- <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/pdf/tully-area-map.pdf>
- <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/murray-falls/pdf/ma471-murrayfalls.pdf>

About 120 bird species have been recorded at Murray Falls. **Key species** are Southern Cassowary, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Grey-headed Whistler, Pied Monarch, White-eared Monarch and Noisy Pitta. Other birds of interest include Bower's Shrike-thrush, Shining Flycatcher, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Metallic Starling, Australian Swiftlet, Bridled Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Forest Kingfisher, Azure Kingfisher and Orange-footed Scrubfowl. Rarities include Lesser Sooty Owl.

Southern Cassowary is rare here but nonetheless has several times been recorded on access road by the creek crossing.

You can expect a good selection of honeyeaters at the picnic area such as Graceful Honeyeater, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Macleay's Honeyeater, Bridled Honeyeater,

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White-throated Honeyeater and Scarlet Honeyeater (in winter). Often in winter, flocks of Topknot Pigeons would come to feed on any fruiting tree. Large-billed Gerygones are common in dense bushes.

On the boardwalk, look for Azure Kingfishers hunting over the water.

Yalgay Ginja Walk may produce Northern Fantail, Rufous Fantail, Spectacled Monarch and Pied Monarch. In the drier areas, look for Grey-headed Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Forest Kingfisher, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher and Rainbow Bee-eater.

### *Edmund Kennedy Section*

This section is located on the eastern side of Bruce Hwy (A1) just 5km north of Cardwell. It was formerly known as Edmund Kennedy National Park. Most of the land is flooded during the rainy season but in drier months the swamps dry up and are accessible to visitors. Be careful, salties are present year-round, however your biggest worries will be mosquitos and midges, so take a lot of repellent with you.



*Black Butcherbird*

To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) 5km north of Cardwell turn east into Clift Rd and drive 1km to the picnic area at the park entrance. Another picnic area is located by the beach at Rockingham Bay, 3km further down the road. See the site map here: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/girramay-edmund-kennedy/pdf/edmund-kennedy-map.pdf>.

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Mangrove Boardwalk runs through the mangroves (3.5km loop), featuring bridges and sections of boardwalk. There is also a 2.5km return Wreck Creek Walk along the beach, with connections to the boardwalk. Facilities include sheltered benches and toilets. No camping is allowed.

About 100 bird species have been recorded in the Edmund Kennedy Section. **Key species** are Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Mangrove Robin, Shining Flycatcher and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher. Other birds of interest include White-browed Robin, Black Butcherbird, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Brush Cuckoo, Fairy Gerygone, Grey-headed Whistler, Brown-backed Honeyeater and Macleay's Honeyeater. Rarities include Southern Cassowary, Beach Stone-curlew, Black-necked Stork, Australian Little Bittern, Pied Heron and Pied Monarch.

In the bushland near the picnic area at the park entrance, look for Fairy Gerygone, Brown-backed Honeyeater, White-browed Robin (very tame), Green Oriole, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Spectacled Monarch and Black Butcherbird.

Along Mangrove Boardwalk, look for Mangrove Robin and Mangrove Gerygone, both are nesting there. Other birds include Shining Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch, Dusky Honeyeater, Little Shrike-thrush, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Varied Triller and Olive-backed Sunbird.

When taking the Wreck Creek Walk, check the beach and mudflats; often a good variety of waders can be found there. Look for Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Common Greenshank, Far Eastern Curlew and Grey Plover. A family of Beach Stone-curlews is a regular feature near the Wreck Creek mouth. Other birds along the beach include Eastern Reef Egret, Striated Heron, Lesser Crested Tern and Australian Gull-billed Tern. The coastline is regularly patrolled by Osprey, Whistling Kite and Brahminy Kite. In patches of grass and heath, look for Red-backed Fairy-wren and Lovely Fairy-wren.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrots may be spotted in lowland rainforest when figs are fruiting. Orange-footed Scrubfowl is very common and you should find many large mounds throughout the Park.

## Tully Gorge National Park

This is one of the wettest places in Australia, with the annual rainfall exceeding 8m. The 54,300ha Park has two separate sections: Tully Section and Tablelands Section. There are no connecting roads between the two sections. Only the Tully Section is described in this chapter; the Tablelands Section is addressed in the Atherton Tablelands chapter.

Tully Section is located just west of Tully. Tully River plunges down Cardwell Ranges into a deep, densely forested gorge. Tully Gorge Rd runs for 40km along Tully River, leading to the Tully Falls Lookout. Birding concentrates along this road. The scenery along this route is so stunning that it is worth visiting the Park for sightseeing alone.

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To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) 1.5km south of Tully turn west into Dean Rd, which later becomes Tully Gorge Rd, and drive to the end of the road. Tully Gorge Campground is located 41km from the highway turnoff. Please note that on the Tully Gorge National Park map, Tully Gorge Rd is first called Jarra Creek Rd and later Cardstone Rd.

The Park offers two camping grounds, Tully Gorge and Cochable Creek (the last 8km to that site is for 4WD only). Other facilities include two picnic areas with toilets, barbecues and picnic tables as well as several walking tracks. See Tully area map, downloadable here: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/pdf/tully-area-map.pdf>.

About 100 bird species have been recorded in the Tully Section. **Key species** are Golden Bowerbird, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Victoria's Riflebird, Crimson Rosella, White-eared Monarch and Pied Monarch. Other birds of interest include Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Bridled Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Black-eared Catbird, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Mountain Thornbill and Australian Swiftlet. Rarities include Southern Cassowary, Red-chested Button-quail, Red-necked Crake and Little Eagle.



*Crimson Rosella feeding in Tully Gorge Rd*

You come here for the lowland rainforest species which can be found around the Tully Gorge campsite. Red-necked Crakes are calling at dusk and Topknot Pigeons arrive for a night roost in tall trees near the river. In summer, Golden Whistlers are singing constantly. In winter, this is a good place to look for White-eared Monarch. In autumn and winter, sizeable flocks of Australian Swiftlets hunt above the rainforest.



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Other birds around the campsite include Grey-headed Whistler, Pied Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Metallic Starling, Little Bronze-cuckoo and Yellow-breasted Boatbill. The site offers a good selection of honeyeaters including Bridled Honeyeater, Graceful Honeyeater, Macleay's Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater and Scarlet Honeyeater. Three species of fantails (Grey, Northern and Rufous Fantail) can be found in riparian vegetation.

Along Tully Gorge Rd, be on the lookout for Golden Bowerbird. A couple of bowers are located along the road. Look also for Brown-capped Emerald-Dove, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Noisy Pitta, Australian King-Parrot, Grey-headed Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, Oriental Dollarbird and Mountain Thornbill.

## Djiru National Park

The 4,100ha Djiru National Park is situated within the Wet Tropics Heritage Area just west of Mission Beach and about 140km south of Cairns. Tropical rainforest is the Park's primary habitat but areas of eucalypt forest, wetlands and mangroves also exist. The Park is divided into two sections: Lacey Creek and Licuala. The latter features dense groves of rare native fan palm (*Licuala ramsayi*). The fan palm forest is more open than the rainforest so birds are typically easier to find here.



*Native fan palms (Licuala ramsayi)*

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The Park is one of the few places in Qld where birders are likely to encounter the endangered Southern Cassowary. It has disappeared from the most of its former range but it still inhabits this Park in reasonable numbers. Djiru National Park and the areas around Mission Beach are this species' remaining stronghold.

To get there:

- to Lacey Creek day-use area, from Bruce Hwy (A1) at El Arish turn east into El Arish-Mission Beach Rd and drive about 8km to the turnoff to the Park. The picnic site is well-signposted. Facilities include carpark, information shelter, viewing platform, barbecues, picnic tables and toilets. A 1.5km Lacey Creek Circuit starts from the day-use area. A 3km Dreaming Trail commences from the access road near the day-use area and exits on El Arish-Mission Beach Rd where it links with the 6km Musgravea Tk which ends at the Licuala day-use area.
- To Licuala day-use area, drive further down on El Arish-Mission Beach Rd until you reach the junction with Tully-Mission Beach Rd. Turn right and drive 4.5km to well-signposted turnoff to the Licuala day-use area.

Alternatively, if you intend to visit only this site, from Bruce Hwy (A1) turn east into Tully-Mission Beach Rd and follow the signs to the Licuala day-use area. Facilities include carpark, picnic tables and toilets. The entrance to Musgravea Tk is located here.

See also the Mission Beach locality map, downloadable here:

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/djiru/pdf/mission-beach-area-map.pdf>.

About 120 bird species have been recorded in Djiru National Park. **Key species** are Southern Cassowary, White-eared Monarch and Red-necked Crake. Other birds of interest include Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Azure Kingfisher, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Victoria's Riflebird, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Macleay's Honeyeater, Grey-headed Whistler, Black-eared Catbird, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Spectacled Monarch and Papuan Frogmouth. Rarities include Southern Boobook (little red race), White-gaped Honeyeater and White-throated Needletail.

### *Lacey Creek Section*

Although this is a reliable area for sightings of Southern Cassowary, we had to be happy there with a consolation prize of three fresh, very large droppings on the track. However, we got a glimpse of Red-necked Crake at the first small creek crossing on the track. Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher made an appearance near the creek in the day-use area.



*Southern Cassowary droppings*

A small clearing along the track proved to be very productive. Bird activity on two trees flowering and fruiting at the same time (typical in the tropics) included Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Black-eared Catbird, Grey-headed Whistler, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Graceful Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater and Macleay's Honeyeater.

Noisy Pitta was foraging on the ground near the boardwalk. Common species on the track included Spectacled Monarch, Pale-yellow Robin, Golden Whistler and Spangled Drongo. At the entrance to the Dreamer Trail, we found a family of Chowchillas. There were also plenty of Little Shrike-thrushes and a Grey Goshawk perching in a tree. Two Yellow-breasted Boatbills were singing in the bush near El Arish-Mission Beach Rd.

## **Banfield Road**

It is worth stopping at the junction of El Arish-Mission Beach Rd and Banfield Rd. GPS coordinates are 17°52'04''S and 146°04'07''E. Southern Cassowaries have been sighted here many times; they like to use this track to disappear into the rainforest after crossing the main road. Metallic Starlings are observed here in huge numbers, probably nesting in the area. Brown Quails may be feeding on the track.

Other birds to look for at this site include Noisy Pitta, Green Oriole, Black Butcherbird, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, White-headed Pigeon, Australian Swiftlet, Macleay's Honeyeater and Pacific Baza.



## *Licuala Section*

This is a good place for Southern Cassowary. Our first bird of the day appeared on the access road here. Victoria's Riflebird was calling from the carpark. Near the picnic area, we saw Superb Fruit-Dove, Dusky Honeyeater, Spectacled Monarch, Rufous Fantail and Varied Triller. In the fan palm growth, we spotted Golden Whistler, Metallic Starling, Brown Cuckoo-Dove and Black-eared Catbird.

In winter, small numbers of White-eared Monarchs appear in this part of the Park.

## Mission Beach

Mission Beach is a thriving coastal tourist town that has been able to retain its small-town image. The town is squeezed into a thin strip of land between the ocean and the hills covered with rainforest, with an unending farmland behind. Mission Beach is located 140km south of Cairns and 40km south of Innisfail. Four small villages: Wongaling Beach, South Mission Beach, Bingil Bay and Garners Beach are part of this birding site.

Bird here range from waders and seabirds along the beaches to countless lowland rainforest species in the narrow rainforest belt. Birders visit the area mostly for Southern Cassowary, as Mission Beach area supports the highest density of these birds in Australia. As area of rainforest is limited and frequent cyclone destroy food supplies, the birds learned to frequent the town, villages and beaches in search of food or partners. Many guesthouses, caravan parks and backyard gardens are part of their territories and are regularly visited so the birds are even given individual names. Talk to the locals where to look for the birds.

To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) at El Arish turn east into El Arish-Mission Beach Rd or Tully-Mission Beach Rd and drive to the Mission Beach coast.

Over 200 bird species have been recorded around Mission Beach. **Key species** are Southern Cassowary, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Spotted Whistling-Duck, Red-necked Crake and Beach Stone-curlew. Other birds of interest include Eastern Reef Egret, Bush Stone-curlew, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Metallic Starling, Helmeted Friarbird, Spectacled Monarch, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Grey-headed Whistler, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Large-billed Gerygone, Australian Swiftlet, Fork-tailed Swift, Large-tailed Nightjar, Pacific Baza and Grey Goshawk. Rarities include Little Kingfisher, Wandering Tattler, Oriental Plover, Black-necked Stork and Barking Owl.

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Southern Cassowaries can be encountered anywhere but confirmed locations include the following:

- Beachcomber Coconut Holiday Park, South Mission Beach (recently the most regular place)
- Wheatley Rd, South Mission Beach
- Garners Beach
- Mission Beach State School, Wongaling Beach
- Kennedy Walking Track, South Mission Beach
- Cutten Brothers Walking Track
- Bicton Hill
- Bingil Bay Rd.



*Southern Cassowary*

### ***Beachcomber Coconut Holiday Park***

Beachcomber Coconut Holiday Park is located in South Mission Beach at 122-132 Kennedy Esp. This is currently the favourite place of Southern Cassowaries. They may be walking with chicks behind the caravans, to move later onto the beach or disappear into the rainforest.

On the beach in front of the caravan park, look for Beach Stone-curlew, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew and Australian Pied Oystercatcher. Among the common terns on the beach, Lesser Crested Tern or Brown Booby may occasionally be found.

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As usually in a caravan park, families of Bush Stone-curlews rule the roost. Other birds here include Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Metallic Starling, White-breasted Woodswallow and Orange-footed Scrubfowl. Sporadic sightings of Grey-headed Whistler have been reported.

The feature of this van park is Australian Hobby that often perches on the site structures. Papuan Frogmouth sometimes also roosts in the park. There is a record of Red-necked Crake walking with chicks under the deck.

### ***Wheatley Rd***

GPS coordinates for this site are 17°55'38''S and 146°05'36''E. To get there, from Tully-Mission Beach Rd take South Mission Beach Rd, then turn into Whitley Rd and drive to the beach.

Southern Cassowaries use this road when walking from rainforest to the beach. Double-eyed Fig-Parrots breed near the junction with the Esplanade. Other birds along this road include Dusky Honeyeater, Forest Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Metallic Starring and Bared Cuckoo-shrike.

### ***Backyard Wetland, Mission Beach State School***

This small wetland is located behind the Mission Beach State School at Wongaling Beach. To get there, from Tully-Mission Beach Rd turn into Webb Rd and drive to the beach. Pass the school and be on a lookout for a sign near a culvert. Leave the car and walk about 100m along the ditch on an obscure track leading to the wetland, which is situated behind the school oval. GPS coordinates for this site are 17°54'12''S and 146°05'40''E. The site has become known to birders when a large flock of Spotted Whistling-Ducks (37 birds) spent a couple of months here from September 2018. Southern Cassowaries, usually males with chicks, occasionally walks through the school grounds.

Other birds in this wetland include Nankeen Night-Heron, White-necked Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Great Egret, Wandering Whistling-Duck and Australian Reed-Warbler.

Bush birds around the school include Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Large-billed Gerygone, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Pheasant Coucal, Green Oriole, Metallic Starling and Orange-footed Scrubfowl. Makes you wish to have been a student there.

Beach Stone-curlews are resident on the beach at Wongaling Beach. Other birds along the foreshore include Eastern Reef Egret, Little Egret, Red-capped Plover, Australian Pied Oystercatcher and Common Sandpiper. Double-banded Plovers were recorded here a few times in winter.

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Metallic Starlings nest in a tree near the Dunk Island View Caravan Park. Southern Cassowaries visit several properties in the area, for example Boutique Bungalows. Other birds in the village's bushland and gardens include Green Oriole, Black Butcherbird, Great Bowerbird, Noisy Pitta, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Black-eared Catbird, Black-faced Monarch, Crimson Rosella, Brown-backed Honeyeater and Helmeted Friarbird. Little Kingfishers occasionally hunt along the creeks in the area.

### ***Kennedy Walking Track***

This 4km one-way walking track commences near the boat ramp at South Mission Beach and follows the coast southward up to Kennedy Bay. The track runs through the coastal rainforest, pandanus palm forest, mangroves and eucalypt forest. Along the track, a boardwalk leads off to Lovers' Beach. The track ends at the Kennedy Bay picnic area.

Southern Cassowaries may be sometimes found within the first 1km of the track. Look for the resident pair of Beach Stone-curlews, usually close to the mangroves. Birds along the track include Black-faced Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Australian Swiftlet, Rufous Fantail, Caspian Tern, Eastern Reef Egret, Osprey and White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

### ***Rose Overton Park***

This park is located along Porter Promenade in Mission Beach. GPS coordinates are 17°51'46''S and 146°06'36''E. During our visit, Orange-footed Scrubfowls and Bush Stone-curlews were very visible in the park and the adjacent tourist park which was tightly packed with caravans and people. A pair of Double-eyed Fig-Parrot were busy chewing bark away from a tree trunk hole they were interested in. Pacific Baza was sitting in a tree by the Information Centre, ferociously attacked by a noisy mob of Spangled Drongos and Helmeted Friarbirds. A couple of Whimbrels, Red-capped Plovers and Lesser Crested Terns were all we could find on the beach. Black Butcherbird and Green Oriole were calling loudly and constantly in the park.

### ***Clump Point***

This site is located further north along Porter Promenade. Turn east into Clump Point Rd and drive to the end where you'll find a boat ramp and a lookout. Our birdwatching around the jetty, mangroves and rainforest nearby produced Brown Booby (roosting on the jetty), Lesser Crested Tern, Caspian Tern, Osprey, Sacred Kingfisher, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Varied Triller and Australian Swiftlet. Southern Cassowaries are occasionally found in this area, most often along Cutten Brothers Walking Track.

When looking for birds, we came across a very large carpet python, resting in a tree fork.



*Carpet python, sleeping tight*

## ***Bicton Hill Track***

This 4km circular track starts and ends at Alexander Dr in Mission Beach and runs through the rainforest of Clump Mountain National Park. We found fresh deposits made by Southern Cassowary on this track. Noisy Pitta was rummaging through the undergrowth. Our findings at this site also included Spectacled Monarch, Fairy Gerygone, Macleay's Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Southern Drongo and Grey Goshawk.

The Hill is the nesting site of Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher in summer. Here, you can sit on a park bench in the evening and watch a stream of Torresian Imperial-Pigeons coming back to Dunk Island for the night roost.

## ***Bingil Bay Road***

Continuing north, Alexander Dr changes name to Bingil Bay Rd. Southern Cassowaries have been seen many times at the beach end of Bingil Bay Rd and near the junction with Butler Rd. Double-eyed Fig-Parrots nest in eucalypt trees near the beach. Along the beach, look for Striated Heron, Whimbrel and Australian Pied Oystercatcher. Bushland along the foreshore may yield Grey-headed Whistler, Spectacled Monarch, Little Shrike-thrush, Collared Kingfisher, Forest Kingfisher, Rufous Fantail, Large-tailed Nightjar and Pacific Baza.



## *Garners Beach*

Turn east from Bingil Bay Rd into Garners Beach Rd and drive to the beach. This is a regular spot for Southern Cassowaries. They also visit Sanctuary Retreat located in Holt Rd near the Brooks Beach nearby.

Along the beach, look for Little Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, Eastern Reef Egret and Whimbrel. Wandering Tattlers are recorded there from time to time.

## *Kurrimine Beach*

From Bruce Hwy (A1) about 6km north of El Arish turn east into Murdering Point Rd to Kurrimine Beach. This is a reliable spot for Beach Stone-curlew. Along the shore, you may find Eastern Reef Egret, Little Tern, Australian Gull-billed Tern, Radjah Shelduck and occasionally Brown Noddies and Brown Boobies. Metallic Starlings nest in a large colony in trees along the foreshore.

Bush Stone-curlews are everywhere. Other birds in this area include Rainbow Bee-eater, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Spectacled Monarch, Spangled Drongo, Topknot Pigeon, Little Bronze-cuckoo, Forest Kingfisher, Australasian Pipit, Australian Swiftlet and Osprey.

## Dunk Island

This large, 970ha island is located just 4km off the east coast, opposite Mission Beach, 130km southeast of Cairns. Most of the island is protected as part of the Family Islands National Park. A wide range of habitats, such as rainforest, eucalypt forest, mangroves, coral reefs, beaches and rock stacks, promises a chance of a good birding here. Dunk Island and the surrounding small islands are predator-free and have become the breeding site for terns which also take advantage of the rich food supply in the neighbouring reef.

To get there, take a water taxi from Mission Beach or Wongaling Beach. The Dunk Island Resort was destroyed by a cyclone and is not yet back in operation. Only the Dunk Island's Spit Campground and the day-use area in the National Park are open for public but visitors have to bring everything they need, including water, with them. A toilet is provided in the campground. An established network of tracks through the island facilitates birding. Further details are provided in the National Park map downloadable here: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/family-islands/pdf/family-islands-map.pdf>.

Over 100 bird species have been recorded on Dunk Island. **Key species** are Black-naped Tern, Bridled Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, Roseate Tern, Beach Stone-curlew, Little Kingfisher, Noisy Pitta and White-eared Monarch (in winter). Other birds of interest include Eastern Reef Egret, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Tawny Grassbird, Torresian

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Imperial-Pigeon, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Australian Swiftlet, Fork-tailed Swift, Spectacled Monarch, Metallic Starling and Osprey.

Terns breed mostly on the smaller islands such as Purtaboi Island but they are visible when feeding on the reef or roosting on the Spit. On top of the species mentioned in the site summary, you can also find here Little Tern, Common Tern, Greater Crested Tern, Australian Gull-billed Tern, Black Noddy and occasionally Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby and Lesser Frigatebird.



*Black Noddy*

Beach Stone-curlews breed on the island and are commonly seen on the Spit. Small numbers of other waders such as Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel and Grey-tailed Tattler should also be expected on the island.

Noisy Pitta can be found near the resort and on the track leading to Mount Kootaloo. Little Kingfishers inhabit the mangroves past the airstrip. Look also for Shining Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch, Large-billed Gerygone and Varied Honeyeater in the mangroves. Bush Stone-curlews occupy the golf course. When you take the circular walk in the rainforest, look for Brown-capped Emerald-Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Dusky Honeyeater, White-eared Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Rufous Fantail, Noisy Pitta and Forest Kingfisher. Eastern Reef Egrets often roost on the rocks along the Coconut Beach.

## Etty Bay

This small coastal hamlet boasts one of Queensland's most scenic beaches. The site is located just south of Innisfail, not far from the turnoff from Bruce Hwy. If you did not find Southern Cassowary in the Mission Beach area, you must come here. The birds rule the Etty Bay village, frequenting the beach, the caravan park and the village with its gardens and orchards, to sink into the dark margin of surrounding forest a while later. The birds are part of the village life, some are such regulars that are given names by the locals, for example Old Etty or Marylin. Just a word of warning: there is a photo where the bird got angry with pesky birdwatchers and took that anger on their car while the birdwatchers just stood there, cowering, trying to protect their equipment.

To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) 8km south of Innisfail take Mourilyan Harbour Rd, after 2km turn into Etty Bay Rd and drive to the village. Local facilities include toilets, picnic tables, a shop and caravan park. GPS coordinates near the caravan park are 17°33'26"S and 146°05'22"E.

Over 130 bird species have been recorded around Etty Bay. **Key species** are Southern Cassowary and Beach Stone-curlew. Other birds of interest include Metallic Starling, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Bush Stone-curlew, Varied Triller, Little Bronze-cuckoo, Black Butcherbird, Spectacled Monarch, Eastern Reef Egret, Lovely Fairy-wren, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Macleay's Honeyeater and Australian Swiftlet. Among the rarities are Emu, Wandering Tattler and Black-necked Stork.

Along Etty Bay Rd, look for Brown Quail, White-necked Heron and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin. Check the powerlines for Oriental Dollarbird, Forest Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-breasted Woodswallow and Nankeen Kestrel.

The most visible birds in the village are Bush Stone-curlews, Metallic Starlings and Torresian Imperial-Pigeons. You may also come across Varied Triller, Spangled Drongo, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Rufous Fantail, Superb Fruit-Dove, Black Butcherbird, Green Oriole, Forest Kingfisher and Little Bronze-cuckoo.

A pair of Beach Stone-curlews is regularly present on the beach. White-bellied Sea-Eagles often patrol the coast. Occasional seabirds such as Great Frigatebird, Lesser Frigatebird and Brown Booby can be observed. Waders can be found in small numbers. Look for Australian Pied Oystercatcher and Grey-tailed Tattler. Sporadically, Latham's Snipe and Wandering Tattler may arrive in the area.

## Coquette Point

This is a small coastal place, situated on the south banks of Johnstone River in Innisfail. Habitats in the area include rainforest, coastal scrub, mangroves, mudflats and beaches. A good variety of waders and rainforest species can be expected. Southern Cassowary is occasionally reported. It is a wader site, but you can go there only at low tide.

To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) in Innisfail take McGowan Dr, cross the Jubilee Bridge and drive along the river via the Corso Esp and Corinda St. At the T-junction, turn right into Hilda St and continue on Howe St which will change name to Coquette Point Rd. Drive nearly to the end of the road. Stop at the base of a very steep hill near the low mangroves. At low tide, you can make way through the mangroves to the beach (remember about the tide times to come back).

About 100 bird species have been recorded around Coquette Point. **Key species** are Beach Stone-curlew, Common Sandpiper, Lovely Fairy-wren, Collared Kingfisher and Shining Flycatcher. Other birds of interest include the waders, Little Tern, Black-necked Stork, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Black Butcherbird, Large-billed Gerygone, Helmeted Friarbird, Black-eared Catbird and Barred Cuckoo-shrike. Rarities include Southern Cassowary, Wandering Tattler, Gull-billed Heron, Little Kingfisher and Mangrove Robin.



*Collared Kingfisher*

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When driving to the site, stop near the Ninds Creek bridge. The area of mangroves and bushland 1km each side of the bridge is worth checking. GPS coordinates are 17°31'59"S and 146°03'35"E. Southern Cassowaries are occasionally recorded here. Azure Kingfishers often hunt along the creek. Dense, wet vegetation near the creek supports a good population of Lovely Fairy-wrens. In the mangroves and on mudflats look for Striated Heron, Collared Kingfisher, Large-billed Gerygone, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Shining Flycatcher, Varied Triller and Black Butcherbird. In the coastal scrub, you may come across White-eared Monarch, Black-eared Catbird, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Goshawk and Helmeted Friarbird.

At the wader site, look for Beach Stone-curlew (usually on the mudflats towards Gladys Inlet), Pacific Golden Plover, Great Sand Plover, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Common Sandpiper. Black-necked Storks often feed alongside the Beach Stone-curlews. Other birds here include Little Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, Australian Gull-billed Tern, Little Egret, Brahminy Kite and Osprey.

## Warrina Lakes Botanical Gardens

This small botanical garden is located just minutes from the Innisfail CBD. You'll find here charming lakes and a variety of waterbirds. A walking circuit allows for an easy stroll through the rainforest and parkland.

To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) in Innisfail turn north into Charles St and drive to the gardens. Parking is located at the Warrina Lakes Centre off Charles St and Emily St. Facilities in the gardens include barbecues, picnic tables, playground and toilets.

Over 130 bird species have been recorded in the Warrina Lakes Botanical Gardens. **Key species** are Azure Kingfisher, Wandering Whistling-Duck, White-eared Monarch, White-browed Crake, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot and Pacific Baza. Other birds of interest include Comb-crested Jacana, White-necked Heron, Nankeen Night-Heron, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Black-eared Catbird, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Forest Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher, Green Oriole, Helmeted Friarbird, Yellow Honeyeater, Brown-backed Honeyeater and Grey Goshawk. Among the rarities are Glossy Ibis, Great-billed Heron, Pied Heron, Black Bittern, Common Sandpiper, Little Kingfisher, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Noisy Pitta and Peregrine Falcon.

Nankeen Night-Herons often roost by the lake. Beautiful Azure Kingfishers are resident in the area and are quite visible. Occasionally, Little Kingfisher can be found near the lakes. White-browed Crakes can be seen in the open walking on lily pads at the water edge. Between July and December 2019, an unusual visitor appeared several times in the park— it was a Great-billed Heron which seemed to have taken fancy to the tilapia and decorative pond fish in the lake.

Many bush bird species breed in the garden. During our visit one summer, we counted seven nests of Brown-backed Honeyeaters, hanging from trees. Other nesting birds



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included Large-billed Gerygone, Shining Flycatcher, Olive-backed Sunbird and Australian Figbird. There were plenty of ducklings and other waterbird chicks. Black-bellied Crimson Finches were busy building their shaggy nest in a bush. A Channel-billed Cuckoo chick was noisily demanding food from a Torresian Crow.



*Australasian Figbird, tropical yellow race*

Other birds we got at this site included Lovely Fairy-wren, Little Bronze-cuckoo, Bush Stone-curlew, Radjah Shelduck, Spangled Drongo, Metallic Starling, Scarlet Honeyeater and White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

## Eubenangee Swamp National Park

This National Park is an important coastal freshwater wetland. It is located just 70km south of Cairns. The wettest part of all Australia, the Bellenden Ker Range (annual rainfall of 8,300mm), lies just to the west of this Park. Much of this water drains to the sea via Russell River that flows through the Park. In the Wet, most of the Park is completely inundated and large numbers of waterbirds congregate here. As usual, remember to be crockwise.

To get there, drive south from Cairns on Bruce Hwy (A1) until you'll reach a little place named Mirriwinni. Turn east into Bramston Beach Rd and then right into Cartwright Rd. Drive 8km until you reach a small carpark near Alice River, signposted simply "National Park". There are no facilities in the Park.

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See also the Park map, downloadable here:

[https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/eubenangee-swamp/pdf/eubenangee\\_swamp\\_national\\_park\\_map.pdf](https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/eubenangee-swamp/pdf/eubenangee_swamp_national_park_map.pdf).

From the carpark, if you go right on the walking track through a narrow strip of rainforest along Alice River, you'll get to the top of a grassy hill with the view of the swamp and its birds.



*View of the Eubenangee Swamp from the hill*

Over 190 bird species have been recorded in the Eubenangee Swamp National Park. **Key species** are Black Bittern, Black-necked Stork (breeding here), Azure Kingfisher, Red-necked Crake and Oriental Cuckoo. Other birds of interest include Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Macleay's Honeyeater, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Fairy Gerygone, Grey-headed Whistler, Pied Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Black-eared Catbird, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Little Bronze-cuckoo, Australian Reed-Warbler and Glossy Ibis. Rarities include Great-billed Heron, Australian Little Bittern, Cotton Pygmy-goose, Spotless Crake, Hoary-headed Grebe, Satin Bowerbird and Square-tailed Kite.

We stopped near Alice River and, standing on the bridge, flushed Azure Kingfisher and Black Bittern. Yellow-breasted Boatbill was singing in the bush near the bridge. Two Pale-vented Bush-hens suddenly emerged from the tall grass near the carpark.

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The walk to the top of the hill was dominated by the calls of Green Orioles. We came across a giant Orange-footed Scrubfowl breeding mound, with two pairs of birds working on opposite ends. A couple of Nankeen Night-Herons were roosting in a tree by the river. We also got a glimpse of Red-necked Crake on the riverbank. Black-eared Catbirds were calling. Spectacled Monarchs were common along the walk; we also spotted Black-faced, White-eared and Pied Monarch.

Other birds along the walk included Macleay's Honeyeater, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Large-billed Gerygone, Large-billed Scrubwren, Shining Flycatcher, Grey-headed Whistler, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Chowchilla, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot and Australian Swiftlet.

In the grassy area on the way to the top, we found Golden-headed Cisticola, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Red-browed Finch, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Pheasant Coucal, Tawny Grassbird, Australasian Pipit and Brown Quail.

From the hilltop, we observed Black-necked Stork carrying branches in its beak to a nest somewhere in the paperbark swamp. A selection of waterbirds scattered around the swamp included Little Egret, Glossy Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Wandering Whistling-Duck, Pied Stilt, Comb-crested Jacana and Green Pygmy-goose. White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Swamp Harrier were flying over the water while Black-shouldered Kite perched on the only tree on the hilltop.

### *Dinner Creek Road*

The area at the elbow of Cartwright Rd and Dinner Creek Rd looked to us as a potential birding opportunity. There was a large swamp on one side of the road and rainforest and mangroves on the opposite side. GPS coordinates are 17°25'28"S and 146°00'01"E.

We stopped there and in a single fig tree found Topknot Pigeon, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Black-eared Catbird and Macleay's Honeyeater. In the patch of rainforest, we came across White-eared Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Brown Gerygone, Grey-headed Whistler and Noisy Pitta. There were also Forest Kingfisher and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher on the fence. From the mangroves, Large-billed Gerygone and Shining Flycatcher were calling.

If you continue along Dinner Creek Rd in the southerly direction, you'll get to Garradunga.

## **Garradunga**

Garradunga is a known Barn Swallow site. To get there:

- From Eubenangee Swamp National Park, follow Dinner Creek Rd south until you get to the junction with Fallon Rd. Turn left into this road to arrive at Garradunga Hotel, surrounded by sugar cane plantations.
- From Innisfail, drive 10km north on Bruce Hwy (A1) and at the sign to Garradunga turn east into Jubilee Rd. After 500m turn left into Garradunga Rd. After 2km you'll get to Garradunga Hotel (turn right into Fallon Rd).

In summer, if the Barn Swallows are present, they usually perch on the powerlines near the hotel. There are also old, unconfirmed records of Pacific Swallows from this site.

On the powerlines, look also for White-breasted Woodswallow, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Forest Kingfisher, Tree Martin and Nankeen Kestrel.

## **Wooroonooran National Park**

This large, 79,800ha National Park stretches in a wide belt between Innisfail and Cairns along Bellenden Ker Range. The Park is part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Two highest Queensland peaks, Mount Bartle Frere (1,622m) and Mount Bellenden Ker (1,592m) are in this Park. This stunning, covered with dark rainforest area, features wild rivers, countless cascading waterfalls, steep gorges and lush valleys. Most of the wet tropics rainforest bird species are found here but birding is rather difficult and other places around Cairns offer easier ways to see them. Other wildlife is also abundant in the park including possums, Lumholtz's tree kangaroos and platypus.

The northern access to the Park is located just 30min south of Cairns. Different entrances to different park attractions can be reached from Bruce Hwy, Gillies Range Rd and Palmerston Hwy as described below. Four camping areas are provided: Goldsborough Valley, Babinda Boulders, Henrietta Creek and South Johnstone. A wide range of accommodation is available around and in the Park. A map of the Wooroonooran National Park is downloadable here:

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran/pdf/wooroonooran-np-map.pdf>.

## **Goldsborough Valley**

This site is situated in the northern section of the Wooroonooran National Park, about 45km south of Cairns. Habitats here include rainforest, eucalypt forest, river, wetlands and farmland. Best birding happens in spring and summer, coinciding with flowering and fruiting of many trees, mainly in the Goldsborough Valley camping grounds and along the access road.



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To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) at Gordonvale turn into Gillies Range Rd (52) and drive 6km to turn left at the Goldsborough Valley sign. Drive over the Peet's Bridge and follow the signs for 16km to the campground. This is an excellent camping area with barbecues, shelters, benches and toilets. Two tracks start at the campsite. See also a Goldsborough Valley map, downloadable here:

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-goldsborough-valley/pdf/goldsborough-valley-map.pdf>.

Over 130 bird species have been recorded in Goldsborough Valley. **Key species** are Red-necked Crake, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Victoria's Riflebird, Pied Monarch, White-eared Monarch and Lesser Sooty Owl. Other birds of interest include Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Bush Stone-curlew, Spectacled Monarch, Grey-headed Whistler, Macleay's Honeyeater, Noisy Pitta, Large-billed Scrubwren, Fairy Gerygone, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Australian Swiftlet and Grey Goshawk. Great-billed Heron is the site's rarity.

While driving through the farmland on Goldsborough Valley Rd, you may experience a magic moment seeing a herd of brumbies galloping through the landscape. If you stop along the road, you may see the birds you will not find later in the National Park. Look for Brown Treecreeper, Northern Fantail, Rufous Whistler, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Tawny Grassbird, Australasian Pipit, Australian King-Parrot and Brown Goshawk.



*Brown Goshawk*

A variety of fruit-eating pigeons can be found around the Goldsborough Valley camping area. These include Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Superb Fruit-Dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove and Brown-capped Emerald-Dove. Bush Stone-curlews, Black-eared Catbirds and Green



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Orioles may approach your picnic table while Noisy Pitta can be spotted on the campsite boundary. Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers nest near the campground. A large flock of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos occasionally takes over the grounds. Other common birds in the campsite include Fairy Gerygone, Metallic Starling, Graceful Honeyeater, Macleay's Honeyeater and Rufous Fantail. To look for Red-necked Crake and Azure Kingfisher, walk along the Mulgrave River.

Wajil Walk starts from the campground – it is a good idea to check out at least the first kilometre. You may come across Victoria's Riflebird, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Pied Monarch, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot and many honeyeaters.

The first section of Goldfield Trail is good for White-eared Monarch. You may also get Grey Goshawk, Macleay's Honeyeater and Scarlet Honeyeater there.

Great-billed Heron is occasionally seen on the Mulgrave River, so far from the coast, in particular in the area of Toohey Creek confluence, located about 1km upstream of Upper Bridge (also known as Arnold's Bridge). Access is by canoe. GPS coordinates are 17°12'54"S and 145°44'44"E.

### *Babinda Boulders*

This is a popular swimming hole and picnic/camping area west of Babinda, located at the foothill of Bellenden Ker Range. The Babinda Creek rushes over giant granite boulders and creates cascades and swimming holes. This site is not part of the National Park but is surrounded by it. This incredibly beautiful area offers a good variety of rainforest species; even Southern Cassowary makes an appearance from time to time. To get there, from Bruce Hwy (A1) in Babinda take Babinda Rd and drive 6km to the site. Facilities include a free camping area, large carpark, toilets, cold showers, barbecues, shelters and picnic tables. There is also a 2km-long rainforest walk to the waterfall.

About 70 bird species have been recorded at Babinda Boulders. **Key species** are Macleay's Honeyeater, Victoria's Riflebird and Spectacled Monarch. Other birds of interest include Black Butcherbird, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Graceful Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Bush Stone-curlew, Australian Swiftlet and Southern Boobook. Rarities include Southern Cassowary, Red-necked Crake, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher and Pied Monarch.

During our unforgettable stay there, we went to sleep at night with the lullaby of Bush Stone-curlews. Black Butcherbirds were waking us every morning with their screeching calls. The rainforest around the campsite was full of calls of Victoria's Riflebirds, Tooth-billed Bowerbirds, Black-eared Catbirds and Pale-yellow Robins. White-headed Pigeons, Topknot Pigeons and Brown Cuckoo-Doves were feeding in the fruiting trees.



*Brown Cuckoo-Dove*

Other birds recorded at this site include Fairy Gerygone, Large-billed Gerygone, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Azure Kingfisher, Red-necked Crake, Rufous Owl and Papuan Frogmouth.

## *Josephine Falls*

The falls are situated at the foothills of Mount Bartle Frere. They are ranked among the most spectacular waterfalls in tropical North Queensland. The site is located approximately 70km south of Cairns. To get there, drive on Bruce Hwy (A1) to Mirriwinni south of Babinda. Turn west into Bartle Frere Rd and follow the signs to Josephine Falls carpark for 8km (via Price Rd and Josephine Falls Rd).

From the carpark, a 1,200m return walking track leads you to the falls and the lookout. For more adventurous, a 15km Mount Bartle Frere Trail goes up to the Atherton Tablelands, ending at the Gourka Rd entrance to the Park. See the Josephine Falls map, downloadable here: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-josephine-falls/pdf/josephine-falls-map.pdf>.

All of the lowland rainforest bird species can be found here. Look for them on the track to the falls, starting in the carpark where Australian Brush-turkeys and Pale-yellow Robins are everywhere. On the track, Australian King-Parrots provide plenty of colour. You may also get Wompoo Fruit-Dove and Superb Fruit-Dove. Other birds along the track include Grey-headed Whistler, Spectacled Monarch, Victoria's Riflebird, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Pied Monarch and Large-billed Scrubwren.

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The first kilometre of the long Mount Bartle Frere Trail is good for Chowchilla, Black Butcherbird, Metallic Starling, Large-billed Gerygone, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater and Australian Swiftlet. Southern Cassowaries sometimes walk along the track, perhaps tired of crushing through the dense undergrowth.

Driving along Price Rd, approaching the Josephine Falls, we observed a harvested sugar cane field being ploughed. This attracted hundreds of Cattle Egrets and Straw-necked Ibises which walked like a white blanket behind the tractor. The powerlines along the road were heavy with rows of Rainbow Bee-eaters, White-breasted Woodswallows, Tree Martins and Fairy Martins.

### Palmerston (Doongan) Section

This is the southern section of the Park, located about 80km south of Cairns. To get there, 5km west of Innisfail take Palmerston Hwy (25) which runs through this section of the National Park. The Park on the north side of the road is well developed and prepared for visitors, offering an easy access to Manu Tropical Skywalk (27km from Bruce Hwy), Gooligans Picnic Area and Henrietta Creek. There are several shorter and longer tracks in this section. Picnic tables and toilets are provided at Gooligans and Henrietta Creek. To the south of Palmers Hwy, a 36km scenic drive through the Park's rainforest consists of several roads: K-tree Rd, Marple Creek Rd and Sutties Rd. This drive leads to Ravenshoe and Millaa Millaa. See the map of this area, downloadable here:

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/wooroonooran-palmerston/pdf/palmerston-map.pdf>



*Immature male Satin Bowerbird, changing plumage to adult*

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About 100 bird species have been recorded in the Palmerston Section. **Key species** are Red-necked Crake, Satin Bowerbird, Lesser Sooty Owl and Southern Boobook (little red race). Other birds of interest include Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Superb Fruit-Dove, Macleay's Honeyeater, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Azure Kingfisher, Little Bronze-cuckoo, Black-eared Catbird, Victoria's Riflebird, Spectacled Monarch, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Chowchilla, Common Cicadabird and Grey Goshawk. Rarities include Southern Cassowary, Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Little Kingfisher and Bassian Thrush.

Nearly all upland rainforest wet tropics species can be found in this section.

### *Henrietta Creek Camping Area*

This site is located on the banks of Henrietta Creek, 33km west of the turnoff from Bruce Hwy. Nandroya Falls Track starts from the campsite. Another short track makes a connection with the Gooligans Picnic Area. Do not camp here in the wet season as millions of marsh flies will not leave you alone.

Satin Bowerbirds are regulars in the campsite. You may also get here Brown Gerygone, Large-billed Scrubwren, Bridled Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Black-eared Catbird, Spectacled Monarch, Black-faced Monarch, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet and Common Cicadabird. Orange-footed Scrubfowl often run through the campground. Azure Kingfishers may be hunting along the creek. A pair of Grey Goshawks of white morphology is often observed circling over the camp. During the night, you may hear Southern Boobook and Lesser Sooty Owl calling.

It is worth walking the first 2km of Nandroya Falls Tk. Red-necked Crakes are found about 700m from the camp. Blue-faced Parrot-Finches are occasionally found in a grassy area about 300m from the camp. Look also for White-eared Monarch, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, White-headed Pigeon, Macleay's Honeyeater, Fairy Gerygone, Noisy Pitta and Forest Kingfisher.

### *Manu Rainforest Skywalk*

This is a very popular tourist attraction. Birding in the canopy can be quite good, particularly when not too many people are around.

A 1km walking track leads to the skywalk through the rainforest. White-eared Monarchs are regularly found on this walk. Southern Cassowary may enter the path. Other species here include Black Butcherbird, Spectacled Monarch, Black-eared Catbird, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Topknot Pigeon, Dusky Honeyeater and Brown Cuckoo-Dove. In summer, flocks of White-throated Needletails and Fork-tailed Swifts are observed flying over the canopy.