



BIRDS

OF WESTERN DOWNS

Queensland, Australia

WELCOME TO WESTERN DOWNS



Only 2.5 hours from Queensland's capital, the Western Downs is an easy escape from fast paced city life. This is Big Sky country where days unfold under vast, wide-open skies before the sun sets in vivid splendour and a blanket of stars appear in the clear nights. Discover country towns, rich with pioneering history and friendly local characters.

Our country landscapes, national parks, and freshwater lakes provide natural settings for camping and all kinds of outdoor adventures, from mountain biking to bush walking, bird watching, fossicking for petrified wood, fishing, waterskiing, and much more.

Join in the action of the Chinchilla Melon Festival, watch the camels racing at Tara's Festival of Culture and Camel Races, or immerse yourself in country-style fun with a vintage twist at both the Back to the Bush Festival in Miles and the Jandowae Timbertown Festival. Vibrant and distinctive festivals are truly special celebrations showcasing what makes this region so unique.

Visit www.westerndownsqueensland.com.au for detailed information about the Western Downs.

BIRDWATCHING ON THE WESTERN DOWNS

The Western Downs is a wonderful place to go birdwatching because native birds are in abundance.

Our birds are not confined to the forests, bushy ridges, and woodlands they also thrive along the banks of the Condamine River, in narrow winding creeks, and around tranquil lagoons. Farmlands, whether dry or irrigated, and paddocks with crops ready for harvest, offer vital habitats for a variety of bird species. Even our roadsides, farm infrastructure, and urban buildings provide shelter and nesting opportunities, supporting a rich diversity of birdlife across the landscape.

Watching birds can take many forms. For most people, it is a relaxing pastime that allows them to enjoy the fresh air and explore places they might not usually visit. Some appreciate the solitude it offers, while others see it as a social experience meeting with people who share a common interest. For some, it's the thrill of the chase that ignites their passion. Others view birds as environmental indicators, using them to understand how the natural world is faring.

Getting Started

When you're starting out, it's best to become familiar with the birds that live in your garden, local parks, walking routes, and holiday spots. This way, you'll quickly learn to recognise the common species associated with each location including breeding residents, regular migrants,

and occasional visitors. With practice, you'll begin to identify different species and bird calls, and soon you'll notice that each bird has its own unique way of life.

TIPS FOR BIRDWATCHING

- Time your outings to early mornings and late afternoons.
- Observe behaviour.
- Invest in a field guide specific to your region.
- Be patient and quiet.
- Learn bird calls.
- Familiarise yourself with common bird watching terminology.
- Use a checklist and record sightings on your mobile phone or notebook. It's a fun and effective way to track your progress and set new goals.



Western Downs Habitat

Seven habitats play host to birds of the Western Downs. These can be roughly defined as Woodland, Heathland, Forest, Rainforest, Soft-scrub, Wetland and Savannah. Most birding sites in the region cover two habitat types if they are based around water which most are.

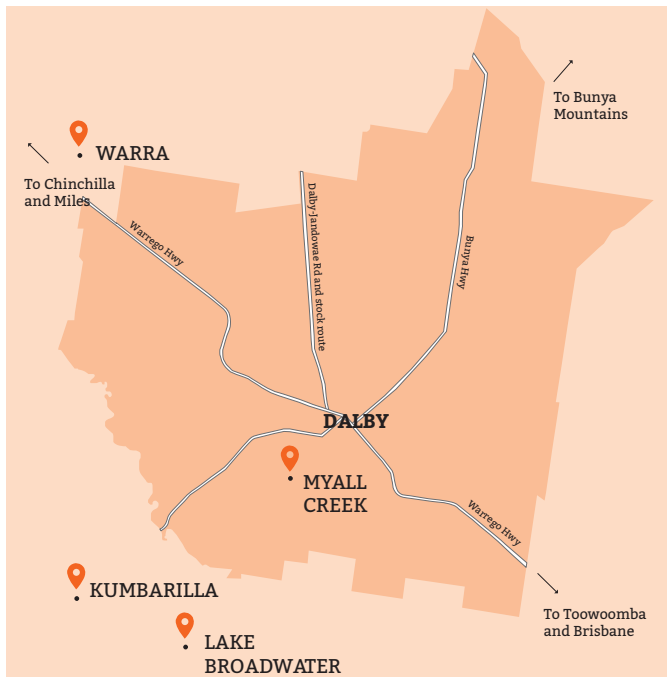
Visit ebird.org/australia/home or download the app to find out more about the birds in our area.

Did you know?

- A person who studies birds is an ornithologist.
- Most birds have 1500-3000 feathers.
- Birds have no sweat glands.
- Birds have hollow bones.
- A sleeping bird cannot fall off its perch. Its toes are locked into place when its legs are bent and can only be released when their legs are straightened.



DALBY AND SURROUNDS



The area of flat open farmland between Dalby, Warra and Jandowae features cultivation and River Red Gums along creeks.

The Brigalow Belah Scrub corridor along Nine Mile Stock Route crosses Jeitz Road at Trumpeter's Corner and is a great location for spotting the Painted Honeyeater as it searches for the Mistletoe Flower of the Brigalow tree.

The Warra Weir and Condamine River near Warra also provide places to spot Honeyeaters and the White Throated Nightjar.

HABITAT

DALBY/JANDOWAE STOCK ROUTE

Savannah/Woodland

LAKE BROADWATER

Forest/Wetland

MYALL CREEK

Waterway

WARA

Cultivation/Open Plains/
Scrub

KUMBARILLA

Forest/Swamp/
Open Grassland

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Thomas Jack Park

Thomas Jack Park is an ideal spot for a relaxing picnic or a leisurely stroll through its beautifully landscaped gardens.

Myall Creek Parkland Walkway

Located in the heart of Dalby, this pathway offers picturesque views and a serene environment. Featuring a sound trail, bike path or an opportunity for children to find "Farmer Bobs" lost animals.

Relax at Mary's Place

Located in Dalby's CBD, this area was transformed from the site of the former 'Mary's Commercial Hotel'. The space celebrates the legacy of Mary Barry a beloved local icon and features an abstract replica of the hotels famous bar.

Lake Broadwater

Situated 30km south-west of Dalby, Lake Broadwater is a haven for a variety of wildlife, especially waterbirds. Some of the notable species you might encounter include pelicans, black swans, and various types of ducks.

Birdwatchers can enjoy spotting species like the white-bellied sea eagle, whistling kite, and the Australian reed warbler.

A modern and picturesque campground makes this a favourite for locals and visitors alike.

Visit Warra Hotel

This charming country pub is the perfect place to unwind with some cold beer and true country hospitality. Camping on site is available.

SUGGESTED BIRDING SITES

Dalby, Jandowae stock route, Lake Broadwater, Myall Creek, Warra and Kumbarilla.

Myall Creek, Dalby

BIRDS OF DALBY & SURROUNDS



☐ Australian White Ibis



☐ Australian Magpie



☐ White-throated Treecreeper



☐ Blue-faced Honeyeater



☐ Brown Quail



☐ Double-barred Finch



☐ Dusky Moorhen



☐ Grey Teal



☐ Laughing Kookaburra



☐ Little Egret



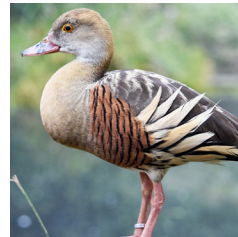
☐ Common Koel (male)



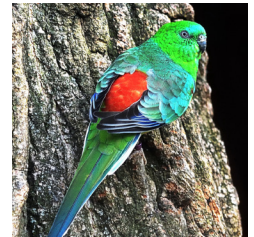
☐ Pale-headed Rosella



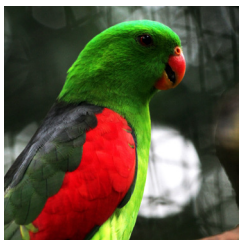
☐ Peaceful Dove



☐ Plumed Whistling Duck



☐ Red-rumped Parrot



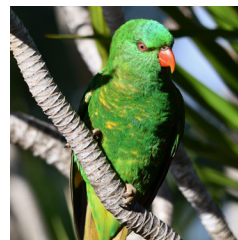
☐ Red-winged Parrot



☐ White-bellied Sea Eagle



☐ Spotted Dove (introduced species)



☐ Scaly-breasted Lorikeet



☐ Superb Fairywren



☐ Tawny Frogmouth



☐ Welcome Swallow



☐ Whistling Kite



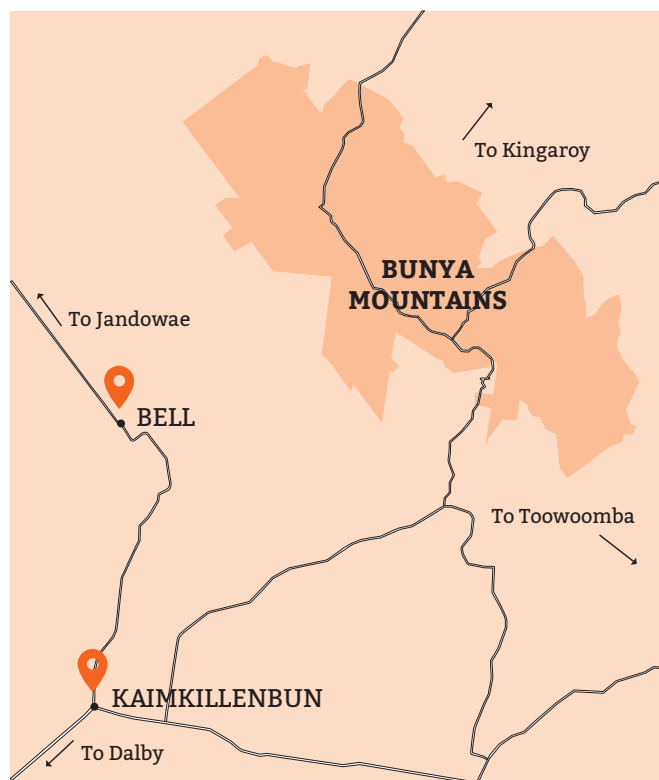
☐ White-winged Fairywren



Did you know?

Apostlebirds are known for their highly social behaviour, often seen in groups of about 12, which is why they were named after the apostles. They build their nests using mud, and sometimes even use emu or cow dung when mud is unavailable.

BUNYA MOUNTAINS AND BELL



If you are travelling up the mountain from the Kumbia side, take a detour into Burtons Well campground, where the large Grass Trees when in flower, attract a number of Honey Eaters to the spikes.

Across the road from Burtons Well, the Mt Kiangarow Track takes you to the highest peak of the mountain on the western side, where you will walk through rainforest and vine scrub.

When out walking, you will see many pigeons, including the Topknot Pigeon (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*), White-headed Pigeon (*Columba leucomela*), Brown Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia phasianella*), and Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*).

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Bell's Big Blade

This impressive wind turbine blade weighs around 22,339kg and measures approximately 67 metres in length. Don't forget to grab a selfie!

Bell Biblical Gardens

The Bell Biblical Garden features a thoughtfully curated collection of plants mentioned in the Bible. The garden is also home to beautiful mosaics, devotional artworks, and a 'Way of the Cross' path. The garden is complimented by eleven murals inside the adjacent church.

Bunya Mountains National Park

The Bunya Mountains National Park is a breathtaking natural wonder, celebrated for its ancient Bunya pines, lush rainforests, and distinctive grasslands. Visitors can immerse themselves in a variety of activities, including hiking scenic trails, camping in tranquil settings, and enjoying picnics surrounded by stunning landscapes.

Birdwatching enthusiasts will be thrilled by the park's diverse range of bird species, while adventure seekers can tackle the exhilarating Russell Park Mountain Bike Trails. Whether you're chasing serenity or excitement, the Bunya Mountains offers a truly unforgettable escape into nature.

HABITAT

KAIMKILLENBUN

Grasslands/Cultivation/
Softwood Scrub

BUNYA MOUNTAINS

Moist Rainforest/Dry Rainforest/
Grasslands/Open Forest/Woodland



BIRDS OF BUNYA MOUNTAINS AND BELL



☐ Australian King Parrot



☐ Black-faced Monarch



☐ Black-shouldered Kite



☐ Brush Turkey



☐ Crimson Rosella



☐ Eastern Yellow Robin



☐ Golden Whistler



☐ Green Catbird



☐ Grey-crowned Babbler



☐ Noisy Pitta



☐ Paradise Riflebird



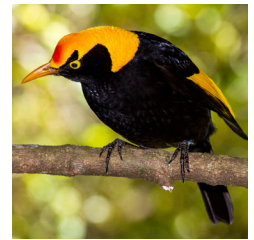
☐ Black-breasted Buttonquail



☐ Rainbow Lorikeet



☐ Red-tailed Black Cockatoo



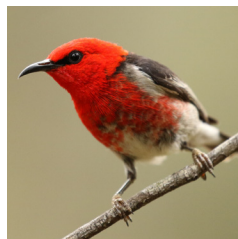
☐ Regent Bowerbird



☐ Rufous Fantail



☐ Satin Bowerbird



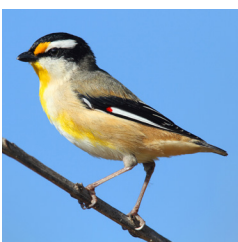
☐ Scarlet Honeyeater



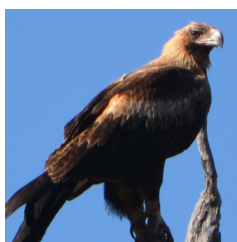
☐ Grey Goshawk



☐ Southern Boobook



☐ Striated Pardalote



☐ Wedgetail Eagle



☐ White-winged Chough

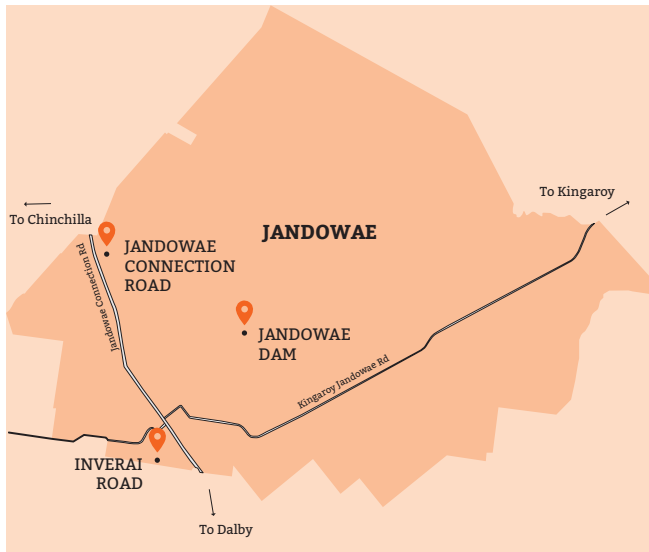


☐ Zebra Finch

Did you know?

The Green Catbird is named for its call, which sounds remarkably like a cat meowing. This call can also be mistaken for a crying child. These birds are medium-sized and stocky, with brilliant emerald, green plumage and conspicuous white spots on their wings.

JANDOWAE AND SURROUNDS



INVERAI ROAD

Jandowae features two bird trails. Take a drive along the Inverai Road through open farming plains and cultivation, where the Painted Honeyeater can be found in the corridors of Brigalow trees and softwood scrub, particularly in the Spring.

JANDOWAE CONNECTION ROAD

If you traverse the Jandowae Connection Road and head towards Chinchilla via the Canaga Creek Road or Lower Jinghi Road, this open Belah Forest country features creeks lined with River Red Gum, Poplar Box and Ironbark. In this area you can spot emus and a variety of Honey Eater birds, just to name a few.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Jandowae Dam

On the eastern side of Jandowae, the dam is a great spot to picnic and see waterbirds over a great expanse of water.

Dingo Sculpture

This iconic two-metre-tall sculpture was created by Scottish artist, Andy Scott to commemorate the Wild Dog Barrier Fence, also known as the Dingo Fence.

Athlone Cottage

Wander through this charming heritage precinct, nestled along the banks of Jandowae Creek. Offering a nostalgic glimpse into the region's rural past.

Central Park

Home to the Timbertown Tree, a three-metre-tall sculpture that celebrates the town's timber milling history and the iconic Timbertown Festival and the Tent Pegger Monument a tribute to the Light Horse Brigade and their tent pegging skills.

HABITAT

JANDOWAE DAM
Wetland/Woodland

INVERAI ROAD
Open Plains/Brigalow corridors

JANDOWAE CONNECTION ROAD
Wetland/Woodland

Central Park, Jandowae



BIRDS OF JANDOWAE AND SURROUNDS



☐ Australasian Darter



☐ Australian Tern



☐ Black-faced Woodswallow



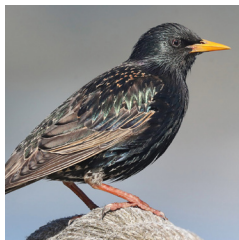
☐ Brown Honeyeater



☐ Cockatiel



☐ Common Myna
(introduced species)



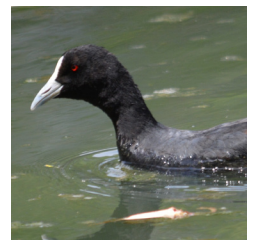
☐ Common Starling
(introduced species)



☐ Eastern Cattle Egret



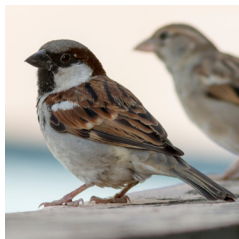
☐ Emu



☐ Eurasian Coot



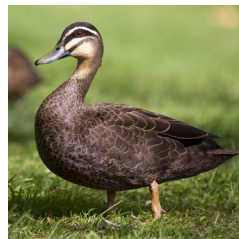
☐ Greater Bluebonnet



☐ House Sparrow
(introduced species)



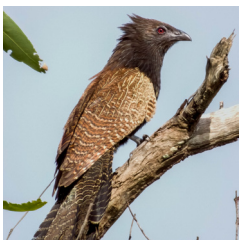
☐ Masked Lapwing



☐ Pacific Black Duck



☐ Painted Honeyeater



☐ Pheasant Coucal



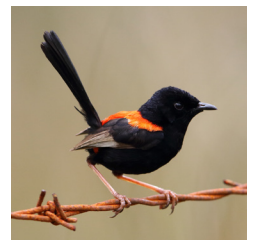
☐ Pied Stilt



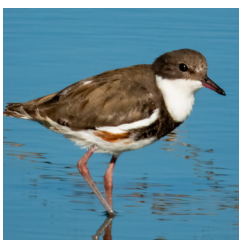
☐ Pied Butcherbird



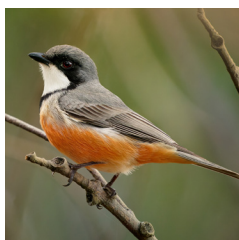
☐ Rainbow Lorikeet



☐ Red-backed Fairywren



☐ Red-kneed Dotterel



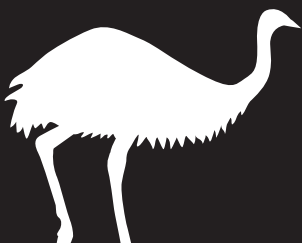
☐ Rufous Whistler



☐ Tree Martin



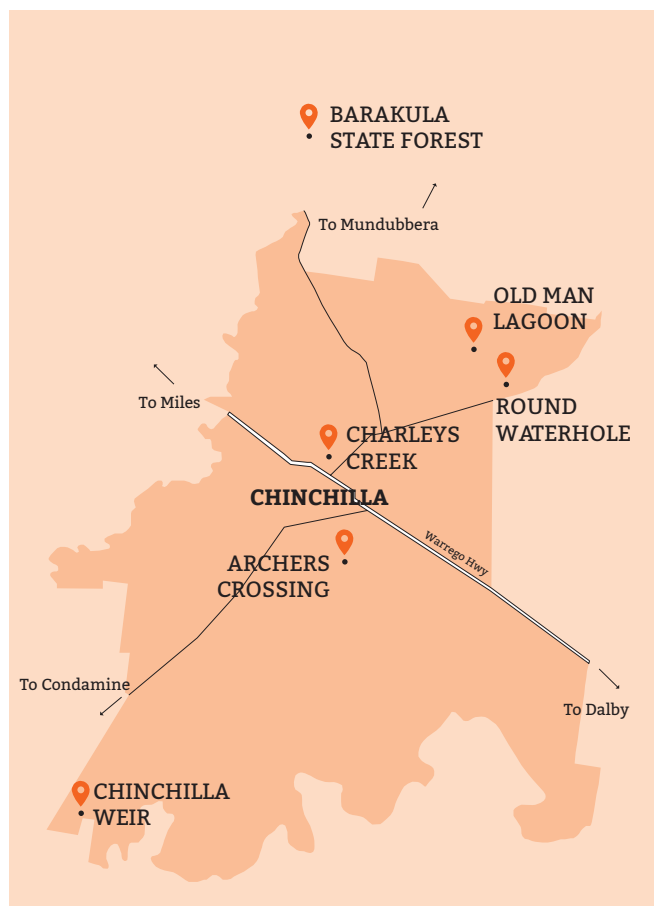
☐ Whiskered Tern



Did you know?

During the breeding season, male emus incubate the eggs and care for the chicks. They can lose up to a third of their body weight during this period as they rarely leave the nest.

CHINCHILLA AND SURROUNDS



Botanical Parkland

Take a walk through the Botanical Parkland and look up into the old dead Box trees - you may spot nesting Galahs. Be inspired by the demonstration garden or stroll along the Ephemeral Creek, which mirrors the banks of nearby Charleys Creek.

Archers Crossing

Archers Crossing (South) is a peaceful location for spotting waterbirds along this tree-lined arm of the Condamine River, about 6km from Chinchilla.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Charleys Creek Campground

Not just a campground, it's an experience. Feel the magic of the Australian bush on an immersive farm tour intertwined with the equine world or simply indulge in the flavours of the on-site brewery.

Chinchilla Botanic Parkland

This parkland incorporates culture, flora and prehistoric fauna native to the area. Enjoy a splash of water when the showpiece watermelon fills up and empties in the custom-built watermelon water play area.

Chinchilla Weir

This freshwater playground is perfect for waterskiing, canoeing, swimming and fishing. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful sunsets over the water and excellent bird watching opportunities.

Cactoblastis Monument

The Cactoblastis Field Station monument on Clarks Road is dedicated to the heroic efforts of farmers and scientists in the 1920' and 1930's. The hall built in 1936, honors the moth that played a crucial role in eradicating the prickly pear.

HABITAT

CHINCHILLA WEIR

Wetland/Woodland

CHARLEYS CREEK

Wetland/Forest

OLD MAN LAGOON

Wetland/Woodland

ROUND WATERHOLE

Wetland/Woodland

BARAKULA STATE FOREST

Forest

ARCHERS CROSSING

Wetland/Woodland

SUGGESTED BIRDING SITES

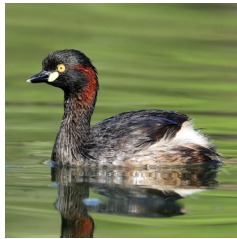
Chinchilla Weir, Charleys Creek, Old Man Lagoon, Round Waterhole, Barakula State Forest.

Chinchilla Weir

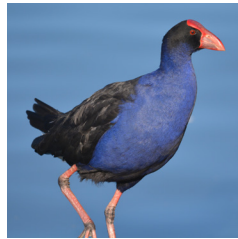
BIRDS OF CHINCHILLA AND SURROUNDS



☐ Australasian Figbird



☐ Australasian Grebe



☐ Australasian Swamphen



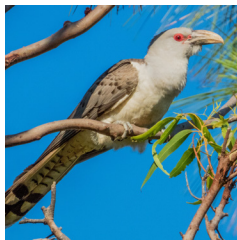
☐ Australian Pelican



☐ Black Kite



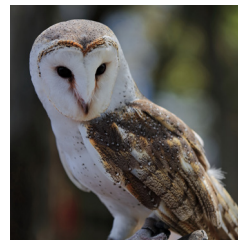
☐ Brown Falcon



☐ Channel-billed Cuckoo



☐ Diamond Firetail



☐ Eastern Barn Owl



☐ Fairy Martin



☐ Galah



☐ Great Egret



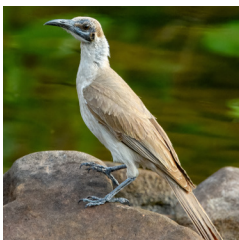
☐ Leaden Flycatcher



☐ Little Buttonquail



☐ Black-eared Cuckoo



☐ Little Friarbird



☐ Little Lorikeet



☐ Musk Lorikeet



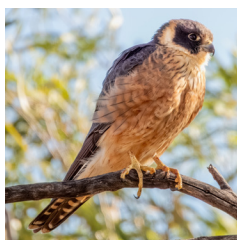
☐ Olive-backed Oriole



☐ Oriental Dollarbird



☐ Pacific Koel



☐ Australian Hobby



☐ Rainbow Bee-eater



☐ White-breasted Woodswallow



Did you know?

The Black Kite are considered the most numerous species of raptor globally. Black Kites can live up to 24 years in the wild, and individuals in captivity may reach up to 28 years.

MILES AND SURROUNDS



Miles is a great town to base yourself for birdwatching with a variety of the woodland, wetland and forest areas around picturesque permanent lagoons, creeks and the Gil Weir. Varieties of Waterbirds can be found around the edges of lagoons blooming with waterlilies.

Visit the Gurulmundi State Forest in Spring where you will find an abundance of small birds amongst the wildflowers and heathland shrubs.

HABITAT

CALIGUEL LAGOON Wetland/Woodland	DOGWOOD CREEK Wetland/Forest	CHINAMAN'S LAGOON Wetland	GIL WEIR Wetland/Forest	GURULMUNDI STATE FOREST Forest/Heathland
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THINGS TO SEE & DO

Caliguel Lagoon

Sunset at Caliguel Lagoon is a truly magical experience. As the sun dips below the horizon, the sky transforms into a canvas of vibrant colors, reflecting beautifully off the calm waters of the lagoon. The serene surroundings, with landscaped gardens and abundant wildlife, create a peaceful atmosphere perfect for relaxation.

Dogwood Crossing

Visit the John Mullins Memorial Art Gallery featuring a rotating program of exhibitions. This architectural gem is designed for creativity and inspiration.

Miles Historical Village Museum

Featuring over 30 buildings and countless displays, the museum is a re-creation of early Queensland life.

Possum Park

This former World War II munitions storage facility is an ideal destination for those looking for a unique and memorable stay in the region.

Chinaman's Lagoon

Chinaman's Lagoon, located just outside Miles, is a hidden gem known for its stunning seasonal displays of Australian native water lilies specifically the rare *Nymphaea gigantea* 'Rosea'. These beautiful pink lilies are extinct in their natural habitat, making Chinaman's Lagoon one of the few places in Australia where they still thrive.

SUGGESTED BIRDING SITES

Columboola Country, Possum Park, Caliguel Lagoon, Dogwood Creek, Chinaman's Lagoon, Gil Weir, Gurulmundi State Forest

Chinaman's Lagoon

BIRDS OF MILES AND SURROUNDS



☐ Australian Bustard



☐ Australian Reed Warbler



☐ Brolga



☐ Sacred Kingfisher



☐ Chestnut-rumped Thornbill



☐ Common Bronzewing



☐ Crimson Chat



☐ Forest Kingfisher



☐ Golden-headed Cisticola



☐ Olive-backed Oriole



☐ Little Corella



☐ Little Woodswallow



☐ Speckled Warbler



☐ Masked Woodswallow



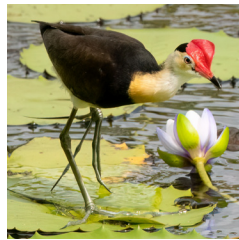
☐ Noisy Miner



☐ Plum-headed Finch



☐ Rufous Songlark



☐ Comb-crested Jacana



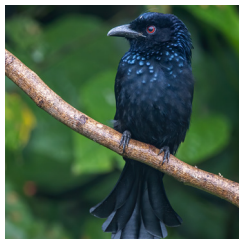
☐ Sahul Cicadabird



☐ Scaly-breasted Lorikeet



☐ Scarlet Myzomela



☐ Spangled Drongo



☐ Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



☐ Stubble Quail



Did you know?

The name Brolga is taken from the Aboriginal language Gamilaraay, in which they are called Burrulga and feature prominently in Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories. Brolgas are well-known for their elaborate courtship dance, which involves leaping, bowing, and trumpeting.

TARA AND SURROUNDS



The Gums Reserve

Located on the crossroads of the Surat Development Road and the Leichhardt Highway, west of Tara, the reserve is located behind the cemetery and includes an ephemeral lagoon surrounded by open forest and mixed flora. A highlight of this lagoon is the White-bellied Sea-eagle. You will also spot Egrets, Spoonbills and Miner birds, to name a few.

HABITAT

TARA LAGOON

Wetland/Woodland

THE GUMS RESERVE

Wetland/Forest

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Tara Lagoon

Tara Lagoon, which is part of Undulla Creek, is a serene camping ground with waters-edge walks, viewing platform and ample opportunity to enjoy the native birdlife that collect in the eucalypts. Tara Lagoon is a fisherman's haven beckoning with a promise of yellowbelly, jewfish and yabbies.

Sunset Way

The Sunset Way is a scenic tourist drive stretching from Tara to Surat. The route offers travellers a chance to unplug from the hustle and bustle and explore the charm of small-town Australia. A perfect journey with beautiful open skies and serene landscapes.

Walk of Remembrance Garden

Located at the Tara Lagoon on Showgrounds Road, this beautiful garden has 49 Spotted Gums. Each gum tree has a plaque commemorating members of the armed services who lived in the Tara region.

Commercial Hotel Tara

Home to some remarkable paintings by the famed artist Hugh Sawrey. Sawrey, who based himself in Tara during the 1960s, created two notable murals for the hotel: "You'll Come a Waltzing Matilda with Me" and "Clancy's Gone to Queensland Droving". Be sure to grab a bite to eat before moving on.

The Gums Reserve



BIRDS OF TARA AND SURROUNDS



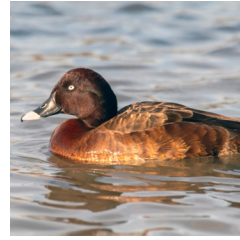
☐ Australian Ringneck



☐ Crested Pigeon



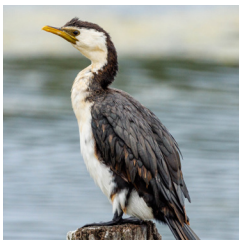
☐ Grey Fantail



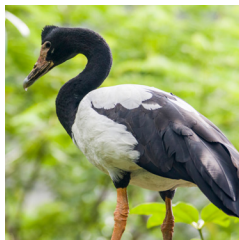
☐ Hardhead



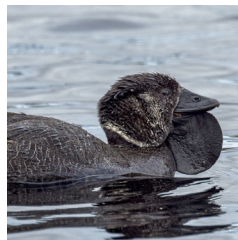
☐ Hoary-headed Grebe



☐ Little Pied Cormorant



☐ Magpie Goose



☐ Musk Duck



☐ Nankeen Night Heron



☐ Silvereye



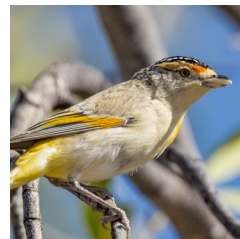
☐ Pied Currawong



☐ Pink-eared Duck



☐ Purple-backed Fairywren



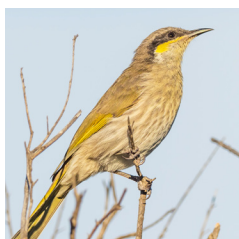
☐ Red-browed Pardalote



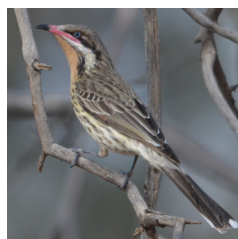
☐ Red-capped Robin



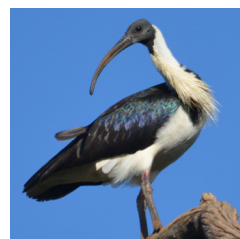
☐ Royal Spoonbill



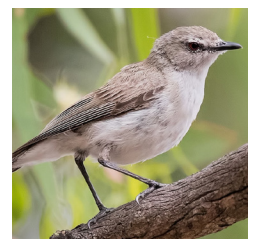
☐ Singing Honeyeater



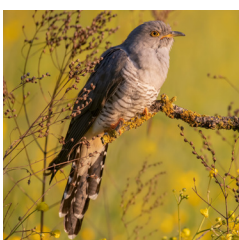
☐ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater



☐ Straw-necked Ibis



☐ Western Gerygone



☐ Fan-tailed Cuckoo



☐ White-plumed Honeyeater



☐ Willie Wagtail



☐ Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Did you know?

The Musk Duck is named for the musky Odor it emits during the breeding season. They are highly aquatic and rarely leave the water, preferring deep lakes and wetlands. Male Musk Ducks have a distinctive leathery lobe under their bill.

MEANDARRA AND GLENMORGAN



HABITAT

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Native Bushland/Brigalow Belah Woodlands

Meandarra is in the heart of the Brigalow Belt of Queensland with numerous soil and vegetation types, thereby providing some favoured locations for feeding, roosting and nesting.

Much of the Brigalow Belah scrubs of this region have been cleared over the years to make way for farming and cultivation, hence bird species have changed to adapt to the changing conditions. You can still find stands of Brigalow scrub, Woodlands and Acacia thickets in the south of the region all laden with bird species such as parrots, treecreepers, dollarbirds, owls and wood swallows. There are Grassland and restricted areas of

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Meandarra ANZAC Memorial Museum

This nationally recognised museum showcases the bravery and sacrifice of the ANZACs and all those who have served in Australia's armed forces.

Brigalow Creek

Located in the town of Meandarra, Brigalow Creek is a popular fishing, camping and picnicking spot, especially when the waterlilies are in bloom.

End of the Line - Glenmorgan Sound Trail

Kicking off at the former Glenmorgan railway station, this sound trail provides visitors with a historical journey into Glenmorgan's colourful past.

Myall Park Botanic Garden

This heritage listed garden is renowned for its extensive collection of Australian flora and is home of the Western Downs Floral Emblem the Grevillea Robyn Gordon. With over 190 bird species, this truly is a birdwatcher's paradise.

Spinifex while Watercourses and the Wetland swamps with Melon Holes are home to egrets, herons, spoonbills, ducks and broilgas.

Other bird watching areas around Glenmorgan include the Hannaford Scientific Reserve at the junction of the Surat Developmental Road and Old Coomrith Road for a good variety of woodland birds. In addition, the Eringibba National Park which can be accessed via the Windermere Road, 1km east of Glenmorgan features scrub areas which are good for small birds and there is also a good variety of woodland birds.

Myall Park Botanic Garden

BIRDS OF MEANDARRA AND GLENMORGAN



☐ Australian Owlet-nightjar



☐ Australian Wood Duck



☐ Banded Lapwing



☐ Black-faced Cuckooshrike



☐ Budgerigar



☐ Collared Sparrowhawk



☐ Crested Shrike-tit



☐ Eastern Spinebill (male)



☐ Fuscous Honeyeater



☐ Nankeen Kestrel



☐ Pied Butcherbird



☐ Welcome Swallow



☐ Painted Buttonquail



☐ Rock Pigeon
(introduced species)



☐ Red-backed Kingfisher



☐ Spotted Harrier



☐ Spotted Nightjar



☐ Striped Honeyeater



☐ Varied Sittella



☐ White-faced Heron



☐ White-throated Needletail



☐ White-eared Honeyeater



☐ Yellow-billed Spoonbill



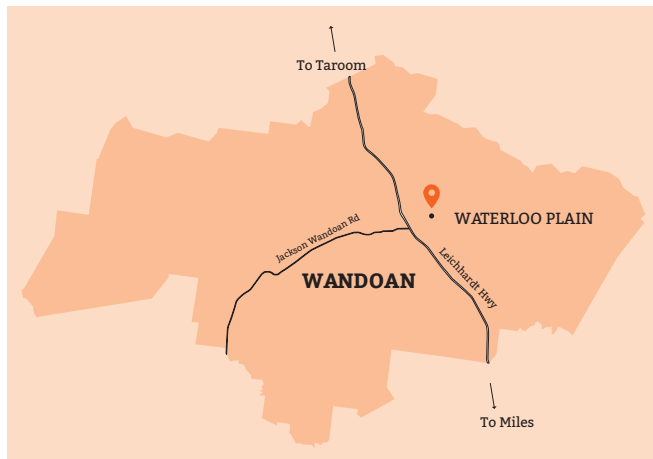
☐ Yellow-throated Miner



Did you know?

The Australian Owlet-nightjar, also known as the moth owl, is a nocturnal bird that feeds on insects by diving from perches or catching them mid-air. They roost and nest in tree hollows, often adding eucalyptus leaves to their nests, which may act as a natural insect repellent.

WANDOAN AND SURROUNDS



Wandoan Soldier



HABITAT

WATERLOO PLAIN
Wetland

THINGS TO SEE & DO

Juandah Historical Site

Juandah Historical Site is a truly unique slice of history. This is the original site of the Juandah Head-Station, the heart of a settlement which later became known as Wandoan. The Juandah Historical Site also hosts a Folk Museum of local heritage items and social history.

O'Sullivan Park

Mick the Dog, a statue dedicated to a heroic cattle dog who saved his owners life in 1901.

The Soldier Sculpture was created using scrap metal and tools collected from the very farms that were allocated to returned soldiers under the Soldier Settler Scheme.

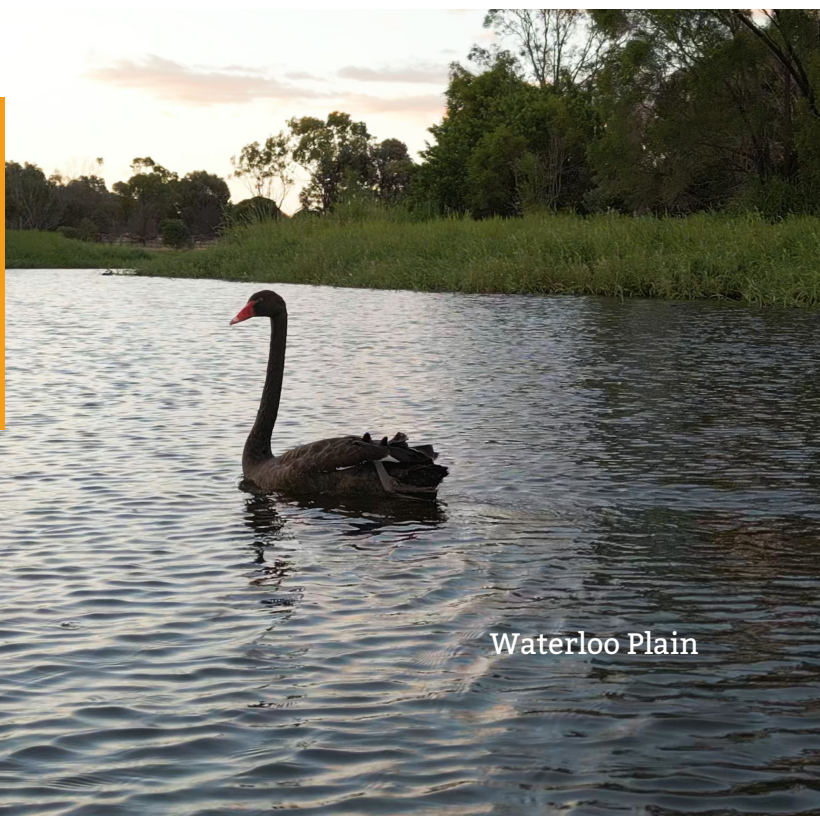
The Avenue of Honour pays tribute to the returned servicemen and women who took up land in the Wandoan district after World Wars I and II. Each of the 103 roses symbolise a soldier settler.

Wandoan Night Silos

A captivating attraction operating every night from 7 pm to midnight. It's a unique and enchanting experience that highlights the community spirit and cultural heritage of Wandoan.

Waterloo Plain Environmental Park

Nestled in the heart of Wandoan, Queensland, the **Waterloo Plain Environmental Park** is a hidden gem for nature enthusiasts and birdwatchers alike. This serene park offers free camping and a picturesque man-made lake adorned with water lilies and a central island that serves as a sanctuary for a diverse array of bird species.



Waterloo Plain

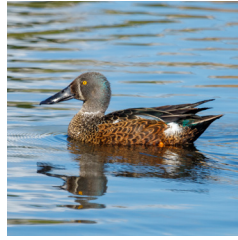
BIRDS OF WANDOAN AND SURROUNDS



☐ Apostlebird



☐ Pallid Cuckoo



☐ Australasian Shoveler



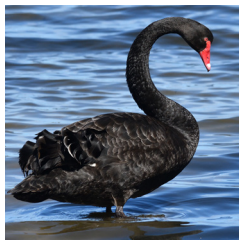
☐ Australian Pipit



☐ Australian Raven



☐ Bar-shouldered Dove



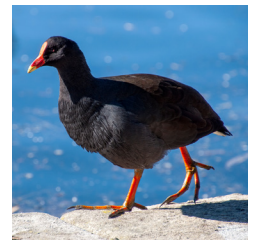
☐ Black Swan



☐ White-eared Honeyeater



☐ Cockatiel



☐ Dusky Moorhen



☐ Jacky Winter



☐ Little Black Cormorant



☐ Magpie-lark



☐ Mistletoebird



☐ Pacific Heron



☐ Yellow-faced Honeyeater



☐ Galah



☐ Ground Cuckooshrike



☐ Spotted Bowerbird



☐ Torresian Crow



☐ Weebill



☐ White-throated Gerygone



☐ Yellow-rumped Thornbill



☐ Yellow Thornbill



Did you know? Rainbow Bee-eaters are indeed opportunistic nesters. Their preference for soft, light loam soil makes them adaptable to various environments, including the sides of roads where the soil has been disturbed by graders, as well as sandy hills and riverbanks. This adaptability helps them find suitable nesting sites even in altered landscapes.



BIRDING CHECKLIST ☒

Black Swan

CASSOWARIES

- ☐ Emu

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS

- ☐ Magpie Goose
- ☐ Plumed Whistling-Duck
- ☐ Wandering Whistling-Duck
- ☐ Blue-billed Duck
- ☐ Musk Duck
- ☐ Freckled Duck
- ☐ Black Swan
- ☐ Australian Wood Duck
- ☐ Cotton Pygmy-goose
- ☐ Northern Mallard
- ☐ Pacific Black Duck
- ☐ Australasian Shoveler
- ☐ Grey Teal
- ☐ Chestnut Teal
- ☐ Pink-eared Duck
- ☐ Hardhead
- ☐ Maned Duck

PHEASANTS, FOWL AND ALLIES

- ☐ Australian Brush-turkey
- ☐ Stubble Quail
- ☐ Brown Quail

GREBES

- ☐ Australasian Grebe
- ☐ Hoary-headed Grebe
- ☐ Great Crested Grebe

STORKS

- ☐ Black-necked Stork (Jabiru)

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

- ☐ Australian White Ibis
- ☐ Straw-necked Ibis
- ☐ Glossy Ibis
- ☐ Royal Spoonbill
- ☐ Yellow-billed Spoonbill

HERONS AND BITTERNS

- ☐ White-faced Heron
- ☐ Australasian Little Egret
- ☐ Pacific Heron
- ☐ Eastern Great Egret
- ☐ Intermediate Egret
- ☐ Cattle Egret (Eastern)
- ☐ Plumed Egret
- ☐ Nankeen Night-Heron (Rufous)
- ☐ Black Bittern
- ☐ Australasian Bittern

PELICANS

- ☐ Australian Pelican

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS

- ☐ Little Pied Cormorant
- ☐ Pied Cormorant
- ☐ Little Black Cormorant
- ☐ Great Cormorant

DARTERS

- ☐ Australasian Darter

OSPREY

- ☐ Eastern Osprey

KITES, HAWKES AND EAGLES

- ☐ Pacific Baza
- ☐ Black-shouldered Kite
- ☐ Letter-winged Kite
- ☐ Square-tailed Kite
- ☐ Black-breasted Buzzard
- ☐ Black Kite
- ☐ Whistling Kite
- ☐ White-bellied Sea Eagle
- ☐ Spotted Harrier
- ☐ Swamp Harrier
- ☐ Brown Goshawk
- ☐ Grey Goshawk
- ☐ Collared Sparrowhawk

- ☐ Red Goshawk
- ☐ Wedge-tailed Eagle
- ☐ Little Eagle

BUSTARD

- ☐ Australian Bustard

RAILS, CRAKES AND COOTS

- ☐ Buff-banded Rail
- ☐ Lewin's Rail
- ☐ Baillon's Crake
- ☐ Australian Spotted Crake
- ☐ Spotless Crake
- ☐ Australasian Swampphen
- ☐ Dusky Moorhen
- ☐ Black-tailed Native-hen
- ☐ Pale-vented Bush-hen
- ☐ Eurasian Coot

CRANES

- ☐ Brolga

BUTTON-QUAIL

- ☐ Red-backed Button-quail
- ☐ Little Button-quail
- ☐ Red-chested
- ☐ Button-quail
- ☐ Painted Button-quail
- ☐ Black-breasted Button-quail

STONE-CURLEWS

- ☐ Bush Stone-curlew (Thick-knee)

STILTS AND AVOCETS

- ☐ Banded Stilt
- ☐ Pied Stilt (White-headed)
- ☐ Red-necked Avocet

PLOVERS

- ☐ Pacific Golden Plover
- ☐ Red-capped Plover
- ☐ Black-fronted Dotterel
- ☐ Red-kneed Dotterel
- ☐ Black-bellied Dotterel
- ☐ Banded Lapwing
- ☐ Masked Lapwing

PAINTED-SNIPES

- ☐ Australian Painted Snipe

JACANAS

- ☐ Comb-crested Jacana

SANDPIPERS AND SNIPES

- ☐ Latham's Snipe
- ☐ Black-tailed Godwit
- ☐ Little Curlew
- ☐ Marsh Sandpiper
- ☐ Common Greenshank
- ☐ Wood Sandpiper
- ☐ Common Sandpiper
- ☐ Red-necked Stint
- ☐ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

PRATINCOLES

- ☐ Australian Pratincole

GULL, TERNS AND SKIMMERS

- ☐ Silver Gull
- ☐ Australian Tern
- ☐ Caspian Tern
- ☐ Whiskered Tern
- ☐ White-winged Tern
- ☐ White-winged Black-Tern
- ☐ Black Tern

PIGEONS AND DOVES

- ☐ Rock Pigeon
- ☐ White-headed Pigeon
- ☐ Spotted Dove
- ☐ Brown Cuckoo-Dove
- ☐ Pacific Emerald Dove
- ☐ Common Bronzewing
- ☐ Crested Pigeon
- ☐ Squatter Pigeon
- ☐ Diamond Dove
- ☐ Peaceful Dove
- ☐ Bar-shouldered Dove
- ☐ Wonga Pigeon
- ☐ Wompoo Fruit-Dove
- ☐ Superb Fruit-Dove
- ☐ Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
- ☐ Topknot Pigeon

CUCKOOS

- ☐ Oriental Cuckoo
- ☐ Pallid Cuckoo
- ☐ Brush Cuckoo
- ☐ Fan-tailed Cuckoo
- ☐ Black-eared Cuckoo
- ☐ Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo
- ☐ Shining Bronze Cuckoo
- ☐ Little Bronze-Cuckoo
- ☐ Pacific Koel (Eastern)
- ☐ Channel-billed Cuckoo
- ☐ Pheasant Coucal

BARN OWLS

- ☐ Greater Sooty Owl
- ☐ Australian Masked Owl
- ☐ Eastern Barn Owl
- ☐ Eastern Grass Owl

OWLS

- ☐ Powerful Owl
- ☐ Barking Owl
- ☐ Southern Boobook

FROGMOUTHS

- ☐ Tawny Frogmouth

NIGHTJARS

- ☐ Spotted Nightjar
- ☐ White-throated Nightjar

OWLET-NIGHTJARS

- ☐ Australian Owlet-nightjar

SWIFTS

- ☐ White-throated Needletail
- ☐ Pacific Swift (fork-tail)

ROLLERS

- ☐ Dollarbird (Oriental)

KINGFISHERS

- ☐ Azure Kingfisher
- ☐ Laughing Kookaburra
- ☐ Blue-winged Kookaburra
- ☐ Forest Kingfisher
- ☐ Red-backed Kingfisher
- ☐ Sacred Kingfisher

BEE-EATERS

- ☐ Rainbow Bee-eater

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

- ☐ Brown Falcon
- ☐ Australian Hobby
- ☐ Grey Falcon
- ☐ Black Falcon
- ☐ Peregrin Falcon
- ☐ Nankeen Kestrel

COCKATOOS

- ☐ Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
- ☐ Glossy Black-Cockatoo
- ☐ Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
- ☐ Galah
- ☐ Little Corella
- ☐ Long-billed Corella
- ☐ Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- ☐ Cockatiel

PARROTS

- ☐ Australian King-parrot
- ☐ Red-winged Parrot
- ☐ Crimson Rosella
- ☐ Eastern Rosella
- ☐ Pale-headed Rosella
- ☐ Australian Ringneck (Mallee/Barnardi)
- ☐ Greater Blue Bonnet
- ☐ Red-rumped Parrot
- ☐ Budgerigar
- ☐ Turquoise Parrot
- ☐ Rainbow Lorikeet
- ☐ Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
- ☐ Musk Lorikeet
- ☐ Little Lorikeet

PITTAS

- ☐ Noisy Pitta

BOWERBIRDS

- ☐ Green Catbird
- ☐ Regent Bowerbird
- ☐ Satin Bowerbird
- ☐ Spotted Bowerbird

AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS

- ☐ White-throated Treecreeper
- ☐ Brown Treecreeper

AUSTRALASIAN WRENS

- ☐ Superb Fairy-wren
- ☐ Splended Fairy-wren
- ☐ Purple-backed
- ☐ Fairy-wren (Variegated)
- ☐ Red-backed Fairy-wren
- ☐ White-winged Fairy-wren

HONEYEATERS

- ☐ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
- ☐ Striped Honeyeater
- ☐ Noisy Friarbird
- ☐ Little Friarbird
- ☐ Blue-faced Honeyeater
- ☐ Noisy Miner
- ☐ Yellow-throated Miner
- ☐ Lewin's Honeyeater
- ☐ Yellow-faced Honeyeater
- ☐ Singing Honeyeater
- ☐ White-eared Honeyeater
- ☐ White-cheeked Honeyeater
- ☐ Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
- ☐ Fuscous Honeyeater
- ☐ White-plumed Honeyeater
- ☐ Black-chinned Honeyeater
- ☐ Brown-headed Honeyeater
- ☐ White-throated Honeyeater
- ☐ White-naped Honeyeater
- ☐ Brown Honeyeater
- ☐ Painted Honeyeater
- ☐ Eastern Spinebill
- ☐ Black Honeyeater
- ☐ Pied Honeyeater
- ☐ Scarlet Honeyeater (Myzomela)
- ☐ Crimson Chat

PARDALOTE

- ☐ Spotted Pardalote
- ☐ Red-browed Pardalote
- ☐ Striated Pardalote

AUSTRALASIAN WARBLERS

- ☐ Yellow-throated Scrubwren
- ☐ White-browed Scrubwren
- ☐ Large-billed Scrubwren
- ☐ Speckled Warbler
- ☐ Weebill
- ☐ Brown Gerygone
- ☐ Western Gerygone
- ☐ White-throated Gerygone
- ☐ Brown Thornbill
- ☐ Inland Thornbill
- ☐ Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
- ☐ Buff-rumped Thornbill
- ☐ Yellow-rumped Thornbill
- ☐ Yellow Thornbill
- ☐ Striated Thornbill
- ☐ Southern Whiteface

AUSTRALASIAN BABBLERS

- ☐ Grey-crowned Babbler
- ☐ White-browed Babbler

WHIPBIRDS AND QUAIL-THRUSH

- ☐ Eastern Whipbird
- ☐ Spotted Quail-thrush
- ☐ Chestnut-breasted
- ☐ Quail-thrush

WOODSWALLOWS, BUTCHERBIRDS AND ALLIES

- ☐ White-breasted Woodswallow
- ☐ Masked Woodswallow
- ☐ White-browed Woodswallow
- ☐ Black-faced Woodswallow
- ☐ Dusky Woodswallow
- ☐ Little Woodswallow
- ☐ Grey Butcherbird
- ☐ Pied Butcherbird
- ☐ Australian Magpie
- ☐ Pied Currawong

CUCKOOSHRIKES AND TRILLERS

- ☐ Black-faced Cuckooshrike
- ☐ Barred Cuckooshrike
- ☐ White-bellied Cuckooshrike
- ☐ Ground Cuckooshrike
- ☐ White-winged Triller
- ☐ Varied Triller

SITTELLAS

- ☐ Varied Sittella

AUSTRALO-PAPUAN BELLBIRDS

- ☐ Crested Bellbird

WHISTLERS AND ALLIES

- ☐ Crested Shrike-tit
- ☐ Eastern Shrike-tit
- ☐ Golden Whistler
- ☐ Rufous Whistler
- ☐ Grey Shrike-thrush
- ☐ Rufous Shrike-thrush

FIGBIRDS AND ORIOLES

- ☐ Australasian Figbird
- ☐ Olive-backed Oriole

DRONGOS

- ☐ Spangled Drongo

FANTAILS

- ☐ Rufous Fantail
- ☐ Grey Fantail
- ☐ Willie Wagtail

MONARCHS

- ☐ Black-faced Monarch
- ☐ Spectacled Monarch
- ☐ Leaden Flycatcher
- ☐ Satin Flycatcher
- ☐ Restless Flycatcher
- ☐ Magpie-lark

CROWS AND JAYS

- ☐ Torresian Crow
- ☐ Australian Raven

AUSTRALIAN MUDNESTERS

- ☐ White-winged Chough
- ☐ Apostlebird

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE

- ☐ Paradise Riflebird

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS

- ☐ Jacky Winter
- ☐ Red-capped Robin
- ☐ Rose Robin
- ☐ Hooded Robin
- ☐ Eastern Yellow Robin
- ☐ Pale Yellow Robin

LARKS

- ☐ Singing Bushlark

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

- ☐ White-backed Swallow
- ☐ Welcome Swallow
- ☐ Tree Martin
- ☐ Fairy Martin

REED-WARBLED AND ALLIES

- ☐ Australian Reed-Warbler

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES

- ☐ Rufous Songlark
- ☐ Brown Songlark
- ☐ Tawn Grassbird
- ☐ Little Grassbird

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES

- ☐ Golden-headed Cisticola

WHITE-EYES

- ☐ Silvereye

STARLINGS

- ☐ Common Starling (European)
- ☐ Common Myna

THRUSHES

- ☐ Bassian Thrush
- ☐ Russet-tailed Thrush
- ☐ Common Blackbird (Eurasian)

FLOWERPECKERS

- ☐ Mistletoebird

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

- ☐ House Sparrow

WAXBILLS, MUNIAS AND ALLIES

- ☐ Zebra Finch
- ☐ Double-barred Finch
- ☐ Plum-headed Finch
- ☐ Red-browed Finch
- ☐ Diamond Firetail
- ☐ Chestnut-breasted Munia

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

- ☐ Australian Pipit

ENDANGERED AND VULNERABLE BIRDS OF THE WESTERN DOWNS



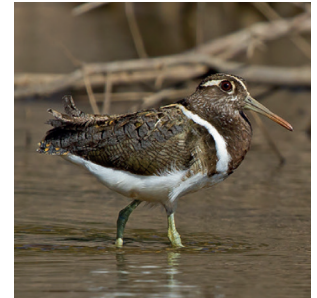
☐ Red Goshawk
(eastern areas)



☐ Grey Falcon
(Lake Broadwater, Moonie)



☐ Black-breasted Buttonquail
(Bunya Mountains)



☐ Painted Snipe
(eastern areas)



☐ Glossy Black Cockatoo
(all regions)



☐ Coxen's fig parrot
(Bunya Mountains)



☐ Southern Whiteface
(Glenmorgan)



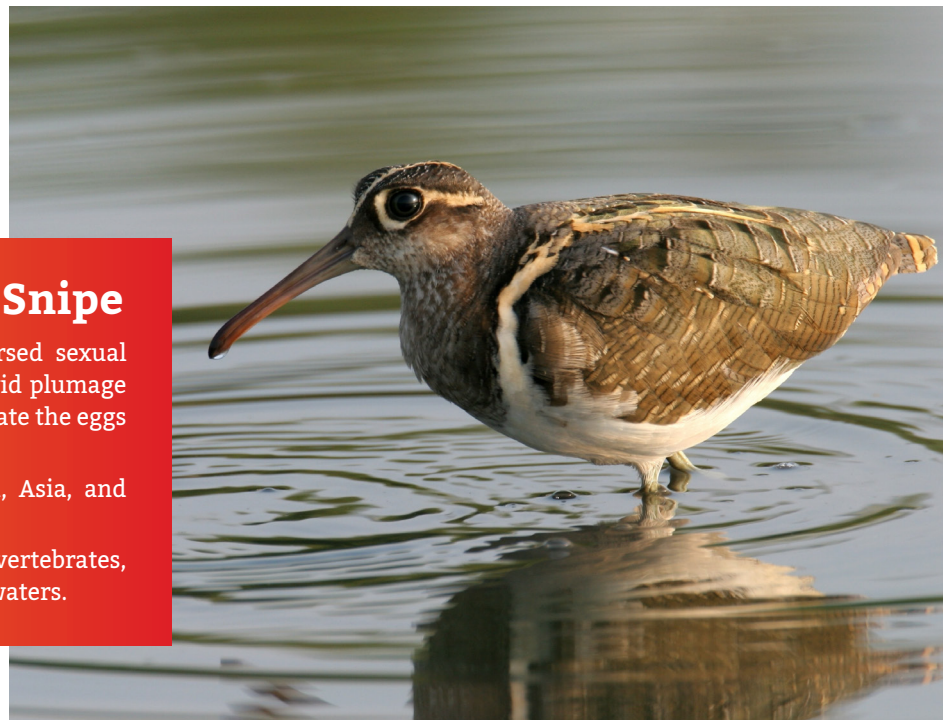
☐ Australasian Bittern
(Condamine, Wiembilla)

Did you know? - Painted Snipe

Reversed Roles: Painted Snipes exhibit reversed sexual dimorphism, with females displaying more vivid plumage and courting multiple mates while males incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.

Habitat: They inhabit wetlands across Africa, Asia, and Australia, adapting to life at the water's edge.

Diet: Their diet consists mainly of small invertebrates, which they forage for in soft mud and shallow waters.



Did you know? - Grey Falcon

Rarest Falcon: The Grey Falcon is possibly the rarest of the Australian falcons, with a population classified as vulnerable.

Distinctive Call: Its call consists of hoarse chattering, clucking, and whining sounds.

Diet: Unlike many other falcons, the Grey Falcon has an almost exclusively avian diet, preying mainly on other birds.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Bernice Seton, local Western Downs bird watcher
- Queensland Country Tourism (ATDW town information)
- www.birdlife.org.au
- www.nationalgeographic.org
- www.ebird.org/australia
- Brigalow Birds Educational Project (book)
- Going Bush with Chinchilla Nats (book)
- Lake Broadwater (book)
- www.birdsqueensland.org.au
- Birds of Southeast Queensland (book)
- Chinchilla Field Naturalist's Group

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDING

For information about specific locations and to learn about what other bird watchers have sighted in our region, we recommend you visit the eBird website ebird.org/australia/home or download the app for [eBird Australia](#).

TIP!

The difference between a birdwatcher and a twitcher is that a birdwatcher is interested in all birds. Whereas, a twitcher is more in search of the rare sightings and may not visit the same area twice.

NOTICE

This publication endeavours to showcase the birding opportunities of the Western Downs. Please check with local Visitor Information Centres for local road information and other tips. When bird watching, do not enter private property without authority of the landowner. Information in this publication has been sourced from various sources including local birding enthusiasts. Whilst every effort has been made to verify information, the Western Downs Regional Council is not responsible for any inaccuracies that may occur.

BERNICE SETON

As an Honorary Life Member of Birds Queensland since 2014, Bernice Seton is a local icon who has been recognised for her dedication and work in educating people about birds.

With late husband Don at her side, Bernice recalls how they would travel around birdwatching, gradually she learned the birds and their calls. It was Don's incredible knowledge, research and articles that also led to his Honorary Life Membership of Birdlife Australia and Birds of Queensland.

For Bernice, a battered copy of "A Field Guide to Australian Birds" now stands as a record of the days of her life, largely resembling a diary recalling where she has been and the different birds she has seen.

Bernice's interest in birdwatching first started when she was in her late 20's. Later, visits to the Bunya Mountains observing the colourful and rarer birds continued to fuel her enthusiasm.

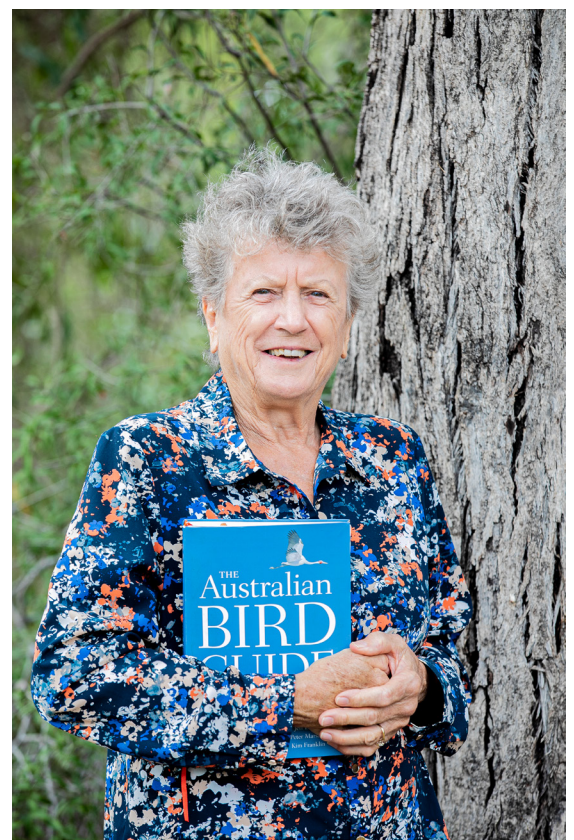
For over 9 years, Bernice has run the Bell Birdwatching Group to raise awareness of the region's birdlife with group members travelling from as far away as Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast, keen to join in on the outings which are held on the third Friday of each month. Travelling in a car convoy equipped with UHF radio's, birding books, binoculars and cameras, the group sets off on a social day of birdwatching.

The Bell Birdwatching Group puts out an informative newsletter each month which goes to over 120 people, not to mention Bernice has been pivotal in the delivery of regional brochures such as the 'Birds of the Bunya Mountains' and 'Birds of the Western Downs'.

Bernice has noted that since 2019 factors such as drought, feral cats, foxes and loss of habitat have all played a substantial role in the decline in bird numbers, stating "You really have to search hard to find some of the more common species. Eight years ago, locating 20 Tawny Frogmouth along a 3 km stretch of road was possible. Now I struggle to find any! Luckily, one does still visit my home. Likewise, small bird numbers have dropped along with the big mixed mobs of finches seen ten years ago".

Bernice enjoys sharing her knowledge with people and invites residents or visitors to the Western Downs to join the Bell Birdwatching Group outings by simply contacting Bernice via email.

On the Western Downs it truly is the People that Make It.



For information on a species of bird in the Western Downs or how to become involved with the Bell Birdwatching Group, contact **Bernice Seton** on 0427 631 080 or email bunyabirds1@bigpond.com

Experience Western Downs

It's the
people that
make it.



Bell Biblical Gardens

 www.westerndownsqeensland.com.au

 [westerndownsqeensland](https://www.facebook.com/westerndownsqeensland)

 [experiencewesterndowns](https://www.instagram.com/experiencewesterndowns)



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES



Dalby

Visitor Information Centre
Warrego Highway
(07) 4679 4461
dalby.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Chinchilla

Visitor Information Centre
Warrego Highway
(07) 4660 7291
chinchilla.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Miles

Visitor Information Centre
Miles Historical Village Museum
Murilla Street
(07) 4627 1492
miles.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Wandoan

Visitor Information Centre
O'Sullivan Park
Zupp Road
(07) 4627 5227
tourism@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Jandowae

Community and Cultural Centre
Corner George and High Streets
(07) 4679 4480
jandowae.ccc@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Bell

Visitor Information Centre
Bell Bunya Community Centre
71 Maxwell Street
(07) 4663 1087
bellbunyacommunitycentre@gmail.com



Tara

Customer Service Centre
19 Fry Street
(07) 4678 7804
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Moonie

Rural Transaction Centre
Corner Moonie and
Leichhardt Highways
(07) 4665 0189
moonie.rtc@wdrc.qld.gov.au