

## HAMPTON BIRD TRAIL

From the Hampton Visitor Information Centre, 8623 New England Highway, Hampton, Qld. south to the Geham National Park, looping around via Merritts Creek Road back to Hampton National Park.

**Total distance** 28 km. **Best Sites** H2, H4

### H1 Geham National Park

Formerly the Geham Forest Reserve Scientific Area  
**Access:** 3 km south along New England Hwy towards Toowoomba. turn left into Mt Luke Rd. after 3km left in Aberdein Rd (old S2 Bird Trails sign) and park at the corner of Zeller Rd.

[27° 23' 26.2"S 152° 2' 18.9"E]

**Habitat:** Native forest with Sydney Blue Gum, Blackbutt, and Tallowood. Heavily infested with lantana, some privet.

**Birds of interest:** Spotted Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Torresian Crow.

### H2 Merritts Creek Road

**Access:** Aberdein Rd across Mt Luke Rd to cross New England Hwy into Merritts Ck Rd, continue 9 km to powerlines over the road just past the end of the pine plantation.

[27° 18' 25.0"S 152° 2' 27.7"E]

**Habitat:** Wooded road reserve. Remnant vine scrub.

**Birds of interest:** Speckled Warbler, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Grey Fantail.

### H3 Hampton National Park

3.9 Hectare former Forest Reserve.

**Access:** Continue north, turn right, and right again into New England Hwy towards Toowoomba. After 6km left into Munro Rd, right into Forest Drive, 1.2 km to end of Forest Dr (junction with bitumen part of McMullen Rd - not signed). The park is a triangle stretching north, on the western side of the unmade part of McMullen Rd. (Please do not trespass in neighbouring properties.)

[27° 21' 8.8"S 152° 4' 29.2"E]

**Habitat:** Tall open forest heavily infested with lantana.

**Birds of interest:** Satin Bowerbird, Red-browed Finch

### H4 Margaret Lloyd Environment Park

**Access:** Continue south, turn right into Wilkes Rd, about 400m to old E7 Bird Trails sign.

[27° 21' 18"S 152° 4' 13"E]

**Habitat:** Tall open forest infested with lantana and privet.

**Birds of interest:** Brown Thornbill, Rufous Whistler, Satin Bowerbird.

**End.** Continue to Highway, turn south to Visitor Centre

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The district stretches along the Great Dividing Range north of Toowoomba.

**East:** the Southeast Queensland Bioregion. Major vegetation types include rainforest, eucalypt woodlands, and open forest. It is part of the Upper Brisbane River catchment.

**West:** Brigalow Belt Bioregion. The more productive lands here have been extensively cleared for farming and grazing. Streams flow west as part of the Condamine catchment of the Murray-Darling River system.

### Birds

There are over 300 species of birds in the region, almost half of the total for mainland Australia. The richness of the bird fauna is a result of the wide range of habitats in the area.

### ACCESS

All of the sites are accessible to the public.

Roads are mostly bitumen or all-weather gravel, but be careful in wet weather.

### HISTORY

The original Bird Trails brochure was prepared by a team of volunteers with the financial and in kind support of Crows Nest Shire Council, Bushcare, Crows Nest Creek Catchment Group, Ravensbourne and District Landcare and Birds Australia

Continuing support comes from the Toowoomba Regional Council and members of Birdlife Southern Queensland.



Comments and suggestions are welcome. Address to: Bird Trails, Hampton Visitor Information Centre or email the webmaster: [webmaster@crownsnest.info](mailto:webmaster@crownsnest.info).



For feedback or more information please contact:

**HAMPTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

8623 New England Highway, Hampton Q 4352

Phone 07 4697 9066 or **FREECALL** 1800 009 066

Email [hamptoninfo@tr.qld.gov.au](mailto:hamptoninfo@tr.qld.gov.au)

[www.crownsnest.info](http://www.crownsnest.info) or [www.tr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tr.qld.gov.au)

# Bird Trails of the Crows Nest District



**There are three trails  
each with a number of sites.**

**Each site has a brief description of the  
habitat,  
how to get there, GPS readings  
and the name of a few of the birds you might  
find there.**

**The checklist on the next page has birds  
recorded for this area.  
Please advise us if you find any not listed.**

**There are hotspots on Eremaea eBird for  
each site.**



## Species recorded in the Atlas of Australian Birds for the Crows Nest area.

Emu	Little Black Cormorant	Comb-crested Jacana	Forest Kingfisher	Little Friarbird	Red-capped Robin
Australian Brush-turkey	Pied Cormorant		Red-backed Kingfisher	Striped Honeyeater	Flame Robin
	Australian Pelican	Australian Painted Snipe	Sacred Kingfisher		Rose Robin
Stubble Quail		Latham's Snipe		Grey-crowned Babbler	Eastern Yellow Robin
Brown Quail	Black-necked Stork	Marsh Sandpiper	Rainbow Bee-eater	Australian Logrunner	Horsfield's Bushlark
King Quail		Red-necked Stint	Dollarbird	Spotted Quail-thrush	Golden-headed Cisticola
	White-necked Heron	Black-breasted Button-quail	Noisy Pitta	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Reed-Warbler
Magpie Goose	Eastern Great Egret	Painted Button-quail		Varied Sittella	
Plumed Whistling-Duck	Intermediate Egret		White-throated Treecreeper		Tawny Grassbird
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Cattle Egret	Australian Pratincole	Red-browed Treecreeper		Little Grassbird
Musk Duck	White-faced Heron			Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Rufous Songlark
Freckled Duck	Little Egret	Silver Gull	Green Catbird	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Brown Songlark
Black Swan	Nankeen Night-Heron		Regent Bowerbird	Barred Cuckoo-shrike	
Australian Wood Duck	Glossy Ibis	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Satin Bowerbird	Cicadabird	
Pink-eared Duck	Australian White Ibis	Glossy Black-Cockatoo		White-winged Triller	Silveryeye
Cotton Pygmy-goose	Straw-necked Ibis	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Superb Fairy-wren	Varied Triller	
Australasian Shoveler	Royal Spoonbill	Galah	Red-backed Fairy-wren	Crested Shrike-tit	White-backed Swallow
Grey Teal	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Long-billed Corella	Variegated Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
Northern Mallard		Little Corella		Rufous Whistler	Fairy Martin
Pacific Black Duck	Eastern Osprey	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Little Shrike-thrush	Tree Martin
Hardhead	Black-shouldered Kite	Cockatiel	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Blue-billed Duck	Pacific Baza	Rainbow Lorikeet	Large-billed Scrubwren	Australasian Figbird	Bassian Thrush
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Speckled Warbler	Olive-backed Oriole	Russet-tailed Thrush
Australasian Grebe	Whistling Kite	Musk Lorikeet	Weebill		Common Starling
Hoary-headed Grebe	Black Kite	Little Lorikeet	Brown Gerygone	White-breasted Woodswallow	Common Myna
Great Crested Grebe	Brown Goshawk	Australian King-Parrot	White-throated Gerygone	Masked Woodswallow	
	Collared Sparrowhawk	Red-winged Parrot	Striated Thornbill	White-browed Woodswallow	Mistletoebird
	Grey Goshawk	Crimson Rosella	Yellow Thornbill	Dusky Woodswallow	
Rock Dove	Spotted Harrier	Eastern Rosella	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Little Woodswallow	Zebra Finch
White-headed Pigeon	Swamp Harrier	Pale-headed Rosella	Buff-rumped Thornbill		Double-barred Finch
Spotted Dove	Red Goshawk	Blue Bonnet	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Plum-headed Finch
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Swift Parrot		Pied Butcherbird	Red-browed Finch
Emerald Dove	Little Eagle	Red-rumped Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie	Nutmeg Mannikin
Common Bronzewing	Nankeen Kestrel	Budgerigar	Striated Pardalote	Pied Currawong	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Crested Pigeon	Brown Falcon				
Diamond Dove	Australian Hobby	Pheasant Coucal	Eastern Spinebill	Spangled Drongo	House Sparrow
Peaceful Dove	Grey Falcon	Eastern Koel	Lewin's Honeyeater	Rufous Fantail	
Bar-shouldered Dove	Black Falcon	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail	Australasian Pipit
Wonga Pigeon	Peregrine Falcon	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Singing Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail	
Wompoo Fruit-Dove		Black-eared Cuckoo	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Torresian Crow	
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Purple Swamphen	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Fuscous Honeyeater		Leaden Flycatcher
Topknot Pigeon	Lewin's Rail	Little Bronze-Cuckoo	Noisy Miner		Satin Flycatcher
	Buff-banded Rail	Pallid Cuckoo	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater		Restless Flycatcher
Tawny Frogmouth	Baillon's Crane	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Regent Honeyeater		White-eared Monarch
White-throated Nightjar	Dusky Moorhen	Brush Cuckoo	Red Wattlebird		Black-faced Monarch
Spotted Nightjar	Eurasian Coot		Dusky Honeyeater		Spectacled Monarch
Australian Owlet-nightjar		Powerful Owl	Scarlet Honeyeater		Magpie-lark
	Bush Stone-curlew	Barking Owl	Brown Honeyeater		White-winged Chough
White-throated Needletail		Southern Boobook	Brown-headed Honeyeater		Apostlebird
Fork-tailed Swift	Black-winged Stilt	Eastern Bam Owl	White-throated Honeyeater		Paradise Riflebird
	Black-fronted Dotterel		White-naped Honeyeater		
Australasian Darter	Red-kneed Dotterel	Azure Kingfisher	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Jacky Winter	
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Laughing Kookaburra	Noisy Friarbird	Scarlet Robin	
Great Cormorant					

## NORTH BIRD TRAIL

This trail starts in Crows Nest, follows the New England Highway to Cooyar, and on to the The Palms National Park. Returns via Pierces Creek Road.

**Total distance** 115 km.  
**Best Sites:** N2, N5, N6, N9

### Start

Bullockys Rest Picnic Area - next to the Police Station in Crows Nest (see East Trail for details). On the way, visit the Crows Nest Library opposite the Grand Old Crow Hotel. It has a case of mounted birds collected from the Highfields Scrub, around 1890 -1892.

### N1 Coalbank Range

Road reserve.  
**Access:** 22 km north along New England Hwy towards Cooyar, turn right into gravel track at yellow Rural Address 5227 (just past the truck stop).  
[ 27° 07' 41.3"S 151° 56' 27.5"E ]

**Habitat:** Strip of open grassy woodland predominantly Narrow-leaved Ironbark, surrounded by grazing land. Sparse understorey, mixed grasses, notably kangaroo grass.

**Birds of interest:** Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Red-backed Fairywren.

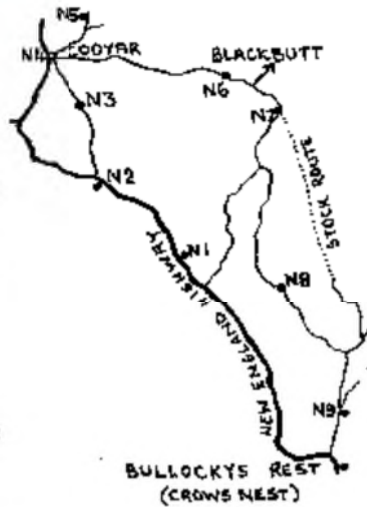
### N2 Thornville:

Stock route reserve alongside Mitchell Creek. Permanent waterhole.

**Access:** Continue 10 km along Hwy. Take track to the left opposite yellow Rural Address 4191, just before East Cooyar Rd.  
[27° 04' 07.5"S 151° 52' 14.2"E]

**Habitat:** Open woodland with mix of Narrow-leaf Ironbark, Forest Red Gum, Rough-barked Apple, with understorey of scrub species, Lantana and Tree Pear. Weeping Bottlebrush and River Oak.

**Birds of interest:** Rainbow Bee-eater, White-browed Scrubwren, Golden Whistler.



### N3 East Cooyar

50 metre wide road reserve.

**Access:** Continue north 200 metres. Turn right into East Cooyar Rd. Travel 6 km to bitumen road crest.

[27° 01' 31.3"S 151° 51' 47.0"E]

**Habitat:** Narrow-leaf Ironbark woodland with dense shrubby understorey.

**Birds of interest:** Variegated Fairywren, Striped Honeyeater, Leaden Flycatcher, Plum-headed Finch.

### N4 Swinging Bridge Park

Platypus sometimes seen from the bridge. Camping allowed.

**Access:** Continue 6 km to Park behind the Cooyar Hotel.

[26° 58' 50.9"S 151° 50' 2.4"E]

**Habitat:** Scattered shade trees. Forest Red Gum with hollows. River Oak, Weeping Bottlebrush. Permanent water.

**Birds of interest:** Pale-headed Rosella, Azure Kingfisher, Restless Flycatcher.

### N5 The Palms National Park

**Access:** Travel north over Cooyar Creek, turn right in to Palms Rd., 8 km to The Palms.

Walking track [26° 56' 59"S 151° 52' 41.0"E]

Old road [26° 56' 7.8"S 151° 52' 43.6"E]

**Habitat:** Rainforest relic with Bangalow Palms. Fruit bat roosts. Also good bush birds on the old road between Boldery Picnic area and Palms Road.

**Birds of interest:** Australian Brush-turkey, Noisy Pitta, Lewin's Honeyeater, Green Catbird.

### N6 Mt Binga Forest Reserve

**Access:** Return to Cooyar. Follow the Cooyar - Mt Binga Rd east from the pub for 15 km. Creek crossing just past Kooralgin Rd.

[26° 59' 34.5"S 151° 58' 7.2"E]

**Habitat:** Grey Gum and Bloodwood tall open forest higher up, with shrubby understorey. At the creek vine scrub understorey. White Kurrajong, dense lantana on the edges.

**Birds of interest:** Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Brown Gerygone, White-throated Honeyeater.

### N7 Stock Route

Camping permitted.

**Access:** Continue 3 km to Blackbutt Rd, turn towards Crows Nest. 3.5 km south, fork left on to rough bush track. (If you wish to explore, the first 2 km are trafficable with care for conventional vehicles. Leave gates as you find them. Whole route - approx 14 km - trafficable to 4WD only. Joins Vonhoff Rd at Lanaby Station gate.)

[27° 01' 22.9"S 152° 00' 34.1"E]

**Habitat:** Open grassy Narrow-leaf Ironbark wood and grading down the slope into Silverleaf Ironbark with scattered understorey. Surrounded by cattle grazing properties.

**Birds of interest:** Striated Pardalote, Speckled Warbler, Jacky Winter, Varied Sitella, White-breasted Woodswallow, White-winged Chough.

### N8 Pierces Creek

**Access:** From stock route turnoff, continue south along the Crows Nest Rd for 17 km to wide road reserve along an S-bend in the creek.

[27° 08' 35.0"S 152° 00' 47.8"E]

**Habitat:** Open forest. Forest Red Gum, Yellow Stringybark, Broadleaf Apple. A hot fire in 2002 destroyed most of the Lomandra and Eianella understorey; now recovering.. River Oaks along the creek. Permanent waterholes.

**Birds of interest:** Pheasant Coucal, Azure Kingfisher, Rose Robin, Dollar Bird.

### N9 Rocky Creek Nature Reserve

Yellow-bellied gliders feed on the sap of Grey Gums at night.

**Access:** 13 km south. Turn left into Rocky Clearing Dip (0.6 km south of Toogoolawah turnoff). Entrance to Reserve next to cattle yards..

[27° 13' 55.7"S 152° 03' 33.6"E]

**Habitat:** Tall open forest with shrubby understorey (much Lantana). Grey Gum, Forest Red Gum, Yellow Stringybark, Gum-topped Box, Broad-leaved Ironbark, Swamp Mahogany.

**Birds of interest:** Australian King-Parrot, Red-backed Fairywren, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill.

### End

Continue south 4 km to Crows Nest.

## EAST TRAIL



This trail starts in Crows Nest, goes to the Crows Nest Falls, and then does a loop around via Lakes Perseverance and Cressbrook, returning to Crows Nest along the New England Highway.

**Total distance:** 85km. **Best sites:** E1, E4, E5, E6.

### E0 Bullockys Rest Picnic Area and Applegum Walk.

**Access:** Next to the Police Station in Crow Nest. Follow Applegum Walk 1.7 km to Hartmanns Park - return via Dale St. Bullockys Rest [27° 15' 52.9"S, 152° 03' 27.8"E]

Applegum Walk [27° 15' 42.0"S, 152° 03' 51.3"E]

**Habitat:** Revegetated as part of the Natural Resource Management Project.

**Birds of interest:** Pacific Black Duck, Buff-banded Rail, Azure Kingfisher, Eastern Spinebill.

### E1 Crows Nest National Park

Picnic area, campground. Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies often seen at the Cascades and the Falls.

**Access:** Turn east at the police station.. Six km along bitumen road to park turnoff.

Track to Falls [27° 15' 15"S, 152° 06' 34.2"E]

Camp ground [27° 15' 23.4"S, 152° 06' 29"E]

**Habitat:** Tall open forest, with Qld Blue Gum, Smooth-barked and Rough-barked Apples. Weeping Bottlebrush, River She-oak and Swamp Mahogany along the creek banks. Rare plants that occur: *Kunzea flavescens*, *Correa reflexa*, *Leionema obtusifolia*.

**Birds of interest:** Peregrine Falcon (Koonin Lookout), Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Striated Thornbill, White-throated Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater.

### E2 Lake Perseverance

Supplies water to Toowoomba.

**Access:** Return National Park to edge of Crows Nest. From Albert St, turn left into Dale St, continue ahead along Perseverance Dam Rd. Turn left at crossroads, travel to Lake Perseverance. Cross Dam wall, turn right into Western Spillway car park.

[27° 17' 16.7"S, 152° 07' 9.4"E]

**Habitat:** Large open deep water dam surrounded by open grassy eucalypt woodland. Understorey of predominantly lantana and mix of native and exotic grasses.

**Birds of interest:** Black Swan, Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Coot, Grey Butcherbird, Torresian Crow.

### E3 Lake Cressbrook

Supplies water to Toowoomba.

Picnic area and boat ramp. Camp ground, walking track (5 km loop). Fishing (permit required).

**Access:** Continue east to Lake Cressbrook turnoff. Ahead to boat ramp or left to camp ground.

Boat ramp [27° 15' 43.0"S, 152° 11' 33.5"E]

Camp ground [27° 15' 38.2"S, 152° 11' 16.4"E]

**Habitat:** Large area of deep water. Open woodland along shore.

**Birds of interest:** Australian Pelican, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Red-backed Fairywren, White-throated Honeyeater.

### E4 Ravensbourne Nature Refuge

**Access:** From Lake Cressbrook turn left towards Esk. Turn left at the first T-junction, right at the next, then left on to the Esk-Hampton Rd. Travel 1.7 km east. Turn right (opposite Somerset Regional Council sign) to a dirt track. Go through fence at locked gate and walk 1.2 km down the track, to creek crossing with rainforest remnant.

Gate [27° 20' 6.6"S, 152° 12' 6.2"E]

Track midpoint [27° 20' 7.2"S, 152° 12' 2.8"E]

**Habitat:** Tall open eucalypt forest on basalt soil. Blackbutt, Stringybark, Tallowwood with Sheoaks, Wattles; grading downhill into low open woodland with heath understorey (Banksias, Grass Trees), on sandy soil. Drainage lines have Bangalow palms and other rainforest species.

**Birds of interest:** Wongi Pigeon, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Variegated Fairywren, White-browed Scrubwren, Red-browed Finch, Silvereye.

### E5 Ravensbourne National Park (Cedar Block Walk)

On a clear day you can see the Border Ranges from Beutels Lookout.

**Access:** Turn left on to highway, travel 5 km to the National Park turnoff. Travel up the hill past the Blackbean picnic area to the Lookout. The walk begins down at the north east corner of the Cedar Block picnic area. Cedar Block is 5 hectares.

Sign [27° 22' 19.8"S, 152° 10' 39.8"E]

**Habitat:** Vine forest with emergent Sydney Blue Gum.

Rosewood, Red Cedar, Blackbean, and stinging trees. The large Moreton Bay Fig in the picnic area is a popular perching and feeding tree.

**Birds of interest:** Black-breasted Button-quail, White-headed Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Powerful Owl, Noisy Pitta, Crested Shrike-tit, Paradise Riflebird.

Note: The walk from the Blackbean picnic area is also worth a visit. It passes through rainforest and palm groves on volcanic red soils to eucalypt forest with Sheoaks and Wattles on sandy soils further east.

### E6 Munro's Tramway

**Access:** Return to the Esk-Hampton Rd and turn left. Continue for 2.5 km, turn sharp left into Shearer Rd. Follow Shearer Rd and National Park Rd to Palmtree Rd. Continue along Palmtree Rd. past the 7 mail boxes at the Perseverance Hall Road corner. After another 1.7 km, Palmtree Rd turns sharp right. There is car park around the first curve. The tramway is a dirt track 1.6 km long. The saddle near the start once had wooden bridge over it. There is a picnic table at the end of the walk.

In dry weather, there is a shortcut directly via National Park Road (dotted line).

Car park [27° 23' 40.3"S, 152° 06' 13.5"E]

Lookout [27° 23' 20.9"S, 152° 05' 53.3"E]

**Habitat:** Grassy mixed Eucalypt woodland with Forest She-oak, and dense Lantana. Views of Toowoomba and Highfields to the south and west..

**Birds of interest:** Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeding, White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Whipbird, Varied Sitella, Cicadabird, Silvereye.

### E7 Perseverance Reserve

**Access:** Go back to the 7 mailboxes. Turn left into Perseverance Hall Rd. After 300m, turn left at the Reserve sign and drive to the big tree.

Tree [27° 23' 52.4"S, 152° 07' 03.2"E]

**Habitat:** 6 hectares of tall open forest beside Perseverance Creek, infested with lantana and other weeds. Being revegetated by Ravensbourne Landcare.

**Birds of interest:** Black-faced Monarch, Eastern Whipbird, White-throated Treecreeper.

### End

Continue along Perseverance Hall Rd, (the farm dam on the left is usually worth a look – park at the gate). Then left into Esk-Hampton Rd to return via Hampton to Crows Nest.