

Welcome

To The Darwin Birding Guide



Black-necked Stork © Tourism NT

Darwin and its surrounding area is a birdwatcher's paradise. You have a range of habitats to choose from - the harbour, mangrove-lined creeks, billabongs, savanna woodlands and seasonal wetlands all of which nurture the diverse migratory and endemic species of the Top End.

Important information

The wellbeing of our birds is our top priority. Making as little impact as possible in these environments is of high importance for the future protection of these wonderful species. Although our land is vast, there are restrictions placed on certain areas where access is strictly prohibited.

- Please respect all landowners. Much of the Katherine region is held under traditional Indigenous custodianship, by private landholders or managed conservation areas. Please keep to marked tracks and obey all signage. If you are unsure, please ask.
- Remain a safe distance (5m) from the water's edge when you are close to any body of water as saltwater crocodiles are common and can be found in all natural waterways.
- Try not to disturb or feed any of the wildlife. Limit the use of recordings or 'call-back' and keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts and important feeding sites.
- Ensure you drink plenty of water and have appropriate clothing to protect you from the elements. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.

Darwin Trails - Where to go and what to see

1 George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Gardens Road, Darwin

Wander through the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to see a range of environments and flora of Northern Australia as well as some fantastic bird life. Species such as Northern Fantail, Varied Triller, Green-backed Gerygone, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Mistletoebird, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous-banded Honeyeater and Rainbow Bee-eater.

Top 3 Birds

- Rufous Owl
- Spangled Drongo
- Forest Kingfisher
- Bonus: Barking Owl



Forest Kingfisher © Tourism NT

2 East Point Reserve Alex Fong Lim Drive, Darwin

Just 6km from the CBD, East Point Reserve is home to abundant wildlife, including many birds. The Monsoon Forest walk is great for spotting species such as the Emerald Dove, Rainbow Bee-eater, Rainbow Pitta and Rose-crowned Fruit Dove. The Mangrove boardwalk gives easy access to Mangrove Golden Whistler, Crimson Finch, Mangrove Grey Fantail and Brown Goshawk. Between October and March many shorebirds share the shorelines with the Military Museum.

Top 3 Birds

- Lemon-bellied Flyrobin
- Rainbow Pitta
- Collared/Torresian Kingfisher
- Bonus: Little Kingfisher



Lemon-bellied Flyrobin © Tim Dolby

5 Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserve (June-Nov) Randall Road (Off Lagoon Road), Knuckey Lagoons

Located 8km from Darwin, this understated wetland provides a wide range of native wildlife. Migratory birds, waterfowl and waders congregate at the billabongs as the waters from the wet season begin to dry up. Look out for large flocks of Magpie Geese, Swinhoe Snipe, Australian Pratincole, Pacific Black Duck, Horsfields Bronze-cuckoo, Black-winged Stilt and more.

Top 3 Birds

- Royal Spoonbill
- Brolga
- Red-kneed Dotterel
- Bonus: Eastern Yellow Wagtail



Brolga © Tourism NT

6 Nightcliff Foreshore (Near The Mouth Of Rapid Creek)

Travel just 12km out of the city and follow the coast around to the Nightcliff foreshore. A beautiful place for a walk or a picnic with sea views, Nightcliff also doubles as a fantastic birding location. Visiting early in the morning or late afternoon, you'll see a variety of Kingfishers including Forest and Sacred, as well as Red-collared Lorikeets, and Northern Fantail. There are also a few finch species along with some birds of prey such as Whistling Kites, Brahminy Kite and Osprey. Heading along the foreshore in a south-west direction, towards Nightcliff Pier, is also a good spot to search for shorebirds during October - March.

Top 3 Birds

- Long-tailed Finch
- Masked Finch
- Osprey
- Bonus: White-bellied Sea Eagle



Red-collared Lorikeet © Tourism NT



www.experiencethewild.com.au

TOP END
Birdfinder
Darwin • Kakadu • Katherine
Central Arnhem • Victoria Hwy • Kununurra
www.mickjerram.com

NT Bird Specialists
Wildlife & Photography Tours
www.ntbirdspecialists.com.au

TRACKS BIRDING
BIRDING & PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS
www.tracksbirding.com.au

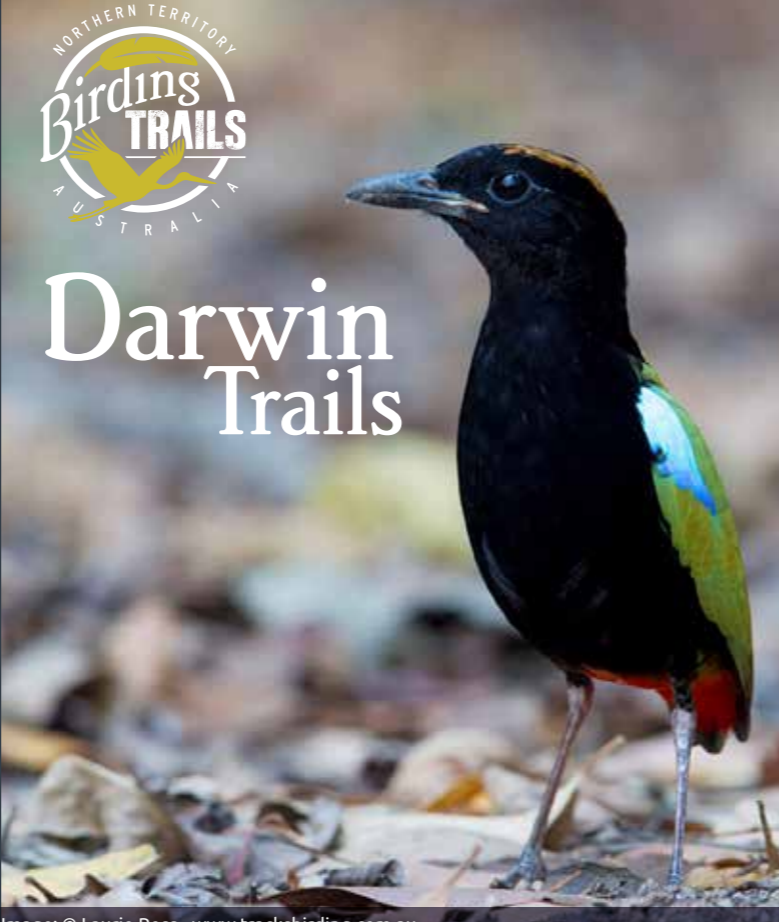


Image: © Laurie Ross - www.tracksbirding.com.au



Darwin Trails

3 Casuarina Coastal Reserve – Dripstone Cliffs To Lee Point Daribah Rd, Brinkin

Start this walk from the Dripstone Cliffs end and walk through some excellent birding environments. Winding your way along the coast, look out for Whistling, Black and Brahminy Kites as well as Pacific Baza (migratory) and Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos. Listen out for a variety of finches such as Crimson and Double-barred. With a clear view on a high tide you'll see many travel-weary waders (October - March) such as Eastern Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Crested and Gull-billed Terns.

Top 3 Birds

- Beach Stone-curlew
- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
- Crimson Finch
- Bonus: Little Kingfisher



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo © Laurie Ross

4 Casuarina Coastal Reserve – Lee Point To Buffalo Creek Lee Point Road, Lee Point

From the Lee Point end of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve, a short 1km walk leads you across a mangrove creek and through a monsoon forest towards a bird hide facing the shoreline. You may spot a Rainbow Pitta, Forest Kingfisher, Arafura Fantail, Varied Lorikeet and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike. When you reach the bird hide, look out for Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot and Eastern Curlew. If you continue your walk on towards the Buffalo Creek boat ramp on a dropping tide, you may even be rewarded with the elusive Chestnut Rail!

Top 3 Birds

- Forest Kingfisher
- Great Knot
- Red-headed Honeyeater



Great Knot © Andrew Silcocks

Heading further out of Darwin? Take in a couple of other outstanding spots under 1.5 Hrs from the Darwin CBD.

Howard Springs Nature Park

Corner Of Howard Springs Road And Gunn Point Road, Howard Springs
Around 40mins from Darwin City, Howard Springs Nature Park is an excellent place to spot some colourful and elusive birds. Head out on the Stuart Highway, turning off at the Howard Springs road and follow the signs to the Nature Park just 6km down the road. Here you will find species such as Rainbow Pitta, Spangled Drongo, Emerald Dove and the quick Shining Flycatchers.

Top 3 Birds

- Emerald Dove
- Rainbow Bee-eater
- Azure Kingfisher
- Bonus bird: Rainbow Pitta



Rainbow Bee-eater © Tourism NT

Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve Anzac Parade (Off Arnhem Highway)

Further out of town on the Arnhem Hwy is a perfect wetland environment with some great viewing platforms and a couple of good walks. Fogg Dam is just over an hour drive from Darwin off the Arnhem Highway. Here you will see wetland birds such as Comb-crested Jacana, Black-necked Stork and Plumed Whistling-Duck. On the walks, you can spot some Kingfisher species along with Rainbow Pitta and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove.

Top 3 Birds

- Black-necked Stork
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
- Comb-crested Jacana
- Bonus bird: Buff-banded Rail



Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove © Laurie Ross

Birds of Darwin Checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange-footed Scrubfowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Black-cockatoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magpie Goose | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-collared Lorikeet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumed Whistling-Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Varied Lorikeet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wandering Whistling-Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Parrot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radjah Shelduck | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rosella |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Pygmy-goose | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Bronze-cuckoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brolga | <input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> Tawny Frogmouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-browed Crake | <input type="checkbox"/> Large-tailed Nightjar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-necked Stork | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Kookaburra |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egret (lesser, intermediate, greater) | <input type="checkbox"/> Azure Kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great-billed Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nankeen Night Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Spoonbill | <input type="checkbox"/> Collared/Torresian Kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Osprey | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Baza | <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Bee-eater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-bellied Sea-eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Pitta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistling Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Bowerbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brahminy Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-backed Fairywren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Green-backed Gerygone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Goshawk | <input type="checkbox"/> White-gaped Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Goshawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Honeyeater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bush Stone-curlew | <input type="checkbox"/> White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Pied Oystercatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Mangrove Golden Whistler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-winged Stilt | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Whistler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comb-crested Jacana | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Shrike-thrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sooty Oystercatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Spangled Drongo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swinhoes Snipe | <input type="checkbox"/> Arafura Fantail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Sand Plover | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Fantail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Sand Plover | <input type="checkbox"/> Broad-billed Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-tailed Godwit | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaden Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bar-tailed Godwit | <input type="checkbox"/> Paperbark Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whimbrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Shining Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Curlew | <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon-bellied Flyrobin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terek Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Mangrove Robin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grey-tailed Tattler | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-headed Cisticola |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Greenshank | <input type="checkbox"/> Zitting Cisticola |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Reed-warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Turnstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow White-eye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Knot | <input type="checkbox"/> Mistletoebird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Knot | <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-breasted Mannikin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-necked Stint | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairy Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Masked Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curlew Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Double-barred Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rose-crowned Fruit-dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Crimson Finch |



Map of Greater Darwin



Rufous Owl © Laurie Ross

Red Wing Parrot © Luke Paterson