



## Bird Observing

in the Noosa Trail Network



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*Bird Watching for Beginners'*

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## Birding organisations

For further information about Australia's wild birds or to join a bird observing group, contact one of the following organisations.

### Birds Australia

Birds Australia National Office

Web: [www.birdsaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au)  
Mail: PO Box 1322, Crows Nest, NSW 1585 Australia

### Bird Observers Club of Australia

National Office and Gift Shop

Address: 183-185 Springvale Road, Nunawading  
Ph: (03) 9877 5342 or 1300 305 342 (within Australia)  
Web: [www.birdobservers.org.au](http://www.birdobservers.org.au)

### Birds Australia Southern Queensland

Web: [www.users.bigpond.com/basqld](http://www.users.bigpond.com/basqld)  
Mail: PO Box 224, Crows Nest QLD 4355  
Ph: (07) 4698 1727

### Birds Queensland

Web: [www.birdsqueensland.org.au](http://www.birdsqueensland.org.au)  
Mail: PO Box 2273, Milton QLD 4064  
Ph: (07) 3229 3554  
Email: [corusp@optusnet.com.au](mailto:corusp@optusnet.com.au)

### Noosa Parks Association - Bird Observer Group

Convenor Valda McLean

Web: [www.noosaparks.org.au/noosabirdtrail/](http://www.noosaparks.org.au/noosabirdtrail/)  
Ph: 5476 2123  
Address: Wallace Park, Eumundi Road Noosaville 4566

### Acknowledgements:

Australian Museum

Most importantly, Bob James, Rob Kernot and Cecily Fearnley

Booklet producer:  
Ben Andrews





Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Australian Wood Duck

#### What to look for?

43 – 49 cm in size. Described as being a ‘goose-like’, it is more commonly seen foraging in the grass around the body of water rather than swimming in it. It is also called the Maned Duck due to the males species displaying a black mane which resembling a Mohawk

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Variegated Fairy-wren (Male)

#### What to look for?

11-15 cm in size. The male variegated or multicoloured Fairy-wren chirps to communicate while searching for insects. However, they will rarely expose themselves in the open, therefore, you may have to play a bit of ‘hide & seek’ to gain a worthwhile viewing

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Variegated Fairy-wren (Female)

#### What to look for?

10 – 15 cm in size. Compared with the male fairy-wren the female is primarily a brownish grey with a rufous coloured bill and eye patch. Working as a family when hunting they will dart around excitedly flicking their tails and twittering a tune

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Powerful Owl

#### What to look for?

40 cm – 1m in size. The Powerful Owl is the largest nocturnal bird (night-bird) in Australia. It is most frequently seen in open forests or woodlands with its preferred night time snack being meat, eating possums, sugar gliders, and other small mammals

#### Notes & when seen

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## Introduction

This booklet is intended to provide beginner or occasional bird observers with a personal guide as to the most common birds found on the Noosa Trail Network. With this pocket sized addition you casually stroll down the trails, and this booklet will assist you in locating and identify the birds which frequently populate certain areas. Hopefully as a result it will have increased your interest and knowledge of the birds in Noosa’s Hinterland, and contribute to your enjoyment of the trail experience. Happy Birding.

## Advice

When using or buying binoculars focus on magnifications 7x, 8x or 10x , as they adequately enlarge the size of the bird and enhance your viewing experience. However, be warned, the larger magnifications do result in the increased effects of shaky hands. Also, bird observing requires practice, so do not become discouraged if you struggle to gain lengthy views of bird activity. It is suggested that you initially locate the bird with the naked eye and then bring the binocular into that line of sight.

Finally, as you become more involved in bird observing it is a good idea to carry additional reference materials with you so that comprehensive identification of birds can be made. Two suggested compact Australian field guides include, Raoul Slater’s or Michael Morcombe’s.

## Seasonality

Some of the birds listed throughout the booklet are migratory, meaning that they take regular seasonal journeys as a result of changes in food availability or weather conditions. This is very similar to humans and their holiday periods, as we travel to areas that are warmer during the winter months to escape the cold. For example, some birds will move north during the winter and south during spring, these include Cattle Egrets, Topknot Pigeons, and Rufous Fantails. So be aware that during certain times of year the bird you could be looking for may not be there. On the positive side, northern bird populations tend to be stationary or only wandering locally. Therefore you have the opportunity to observe the majority of Noosa's bird population throughout the year.

## Notice

In regards to feeding birds, most are capable of feeding themselves so do not continuously offer them food to attract them to the area. By doing so you may cause the birds to become dependant on you as a food source or encourage large predator birds to frequently visit. In the end the smaller native birds will leave the area for protection and only a limited variety of species will be seen.

In a situation where you come across an injured bird, whether it be from a cat attack, poisoning or an oily chemical it is suggested you seek specialist advice. A wildlife hospital or rescue organisation should be contacted such as, Australian Wildlife Hospital, located near Australia Zoo - Phone: 1300 369 652 or the Australian Seabird Rescue Group, Qld - Ph: 07 5485 3543.

## Trail 6 - Cudgerie Loop



### Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (Female)

#### What to look for?

55 – 65 cm in size. This mostly black cockatoo is identifiable by the yellow sections on its tail and checks, and is the largest in its family. Usually found in flocks it favours plant seeds and pine nuts as apposed to human foods. If you wish to attract it to your area plant Banksia or Pine trees as this is a desired part of their diet

#### Notes & when seen

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### Brown Gerygone

#### What to look for?

10 – 14 cm in size. Also known as the Brown Warbler due to its singing skills, this Gerygone is a number of shades of brown all of which blend into its woodland settings. If you listening for its songs you may find it hovering around foliage feeding on insects and plant seeds

#### Notes & when seen

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### Brown Honeyeater

#### What to look for?

11 – 15 cm in size. The Brown Honeyeater also has a patch of yellow behind its eyes and on its wings. Similarly to the other honeyeater it seeks out flowers and plants offering fruit or nectar, and therefore offers its best viewing opportunities during flowering seasons. When searching for this species explore most woodland settings near water

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### White-faced Heron

#### What to look for?

65 – 70 cm in size. It is a blue-grey colour with a white patch covering the face and is also known as the Blue Crane. This slow bird brings its takeoffs with a hopping motion, however during its hunting of fish and other water prey, the heron's darting action is not so slow

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Little Wattlebird

#### What to look for?

26 – 31 cm in size. The Little or Brush Wattlebird is from the honeyeater family and particularly enjoys the taste of the Banksia plant's nectar. Its dull brown colour is not an indicator of its behaviour, as this moderate sized bird is very boisterous and vocal

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Masked Lapwing

#### What to look for?

35 – 38 cm in size. The Masked Lapwing is an anxious bird ever-ready to fiercely defend its nest. This concerned parent hunts insects around the open paddocks of the trail network, with Kekekeke being the call you will hear it make at all times of the day

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Eurasian Coot

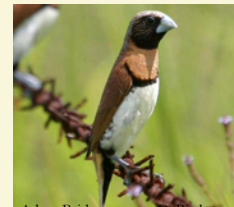
#### What to look for?

34 – 38 cm in size. The Eurasian Coot appears in large numbers on Lake McDonald and you will easily identify it by its iridescent white bill and red eye. This diving bird can hold its breath for 14 seconds and is a carnivore eating both meat and plants like humans

#### Notes & when seen

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## Trail 1 - Kin Kin Countryside Loop



Adam Bridger - www.ozbirds.com

### Chestnut-breasted Mannikin

#### What to look for?

10 - 12 cm in size. This finch's preferred meal is termites or grass seeds. When looking to catch a glimpse you should explore woodlands or low scrub areas. Also it is a very social bird generally found in large flocks, unfortunately these groupings have been known to pester farmer's crops

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Spectacled Monarch

#### What to look for?

16 - 19 cm in size. Its main distinguishable features are the shape that resembles a mask on its face and its dark rufous (Red/Orange) coloured chest. It will often be found in rainforests or wet gullies looking for insects and other creatures on the ground to feed on

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Grey Butcherbird

#### What to look for?

34 - 38 cm in size. The Grey Butcher is called so due to its grey back and wings. It is a fierce predator bird that will hunt insects, lizards and even other birds. It is located throughout woodland, forest and your local suburban areas. When searching for it explore tree branches where it may be feeding or waiting to make a strike on its prey

#### Notes & when seen

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Sci Lane <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/macer/display.cfm?id=138>

## Restless Flycatcher

### What to look for?

20 - 23 cm in size. The Restless Flycatcher is also known as the Scissor Grinder due to a grinding call it makes during feeding. It's common name is also appropriate as it is a highly energetic bird making it difficult to observe for long periods of time. It will most commonly feed alone and its favourite dishes are larger insects

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

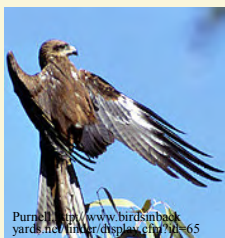
## Peaceful Dove

### What to look for?

19 - 21 cm in size. This predominantly grey coloured dove prefers open forests or woodlands, never far from water. They are known by many names such as Zebra, Barred or Placid dove, and are easily identifiable by their call 'doodle-doo'

### Notes & when seen

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Purnell <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/macer/display.cfm?id=65>

## Black Kite

### What to look for?

49 - 53 cm in size. The Black Kite is known as a raptor or bird of prey due to its hooked bill and powerful grasping claws. It is identifiable by its forked-tail and you may see it hunting in groups at the edge of woodlands or in grassy areas for its ideal meal of rodents, insects or carcasses

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

## Lewin's Honeyeater

### What to look for?

19 - 21 cm in size. It is a common bird to see and hear throughout the East Coast of Australia. Its song is loud repeated notes that are heard ringing throughout rainforest or wet woodland areas. Where you can find it tasting the nectar of flowers or native fruit

### Notes & when seen

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# Trail 4 - Kin Kin to Lake Macdonald



Photographer: Rob Kernot

## Pacific Black Duck

### What to look for?

49 - 60 cm in size. A common site near waters within Australia, you will almost certainly find it near the Lake McDonald end of trail 4. It feeds itself by 'dabbling', a process of placing its head underwater and sifting through the mud upending seeds and reeds at the bottom

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

## Dusky Moorhen

### What to look for?

35 - 45 cm in size. It is mainly found in man made fresh water sources and has a similar call 'Kark', and appearance to that of the swamphen. However, differences to look out for include its duck like feeding style, its red bill with yellow tip and is generally smaller in size

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

## Wandering Tattler

### What to look for?

27 - 29 cm in size. It is believed that this tattler received its name from hunters as it would tattle to (snitch/warn) other birds and hence the hunters of incoming danger. It has a visible long thin bill used for foraging around rocks and shoreline crevices for food, and is a type of sandpiper

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### White-throated Nightjar

#### What to look for?

30 – 45 cm in size. It is a night-time bird that most often comes out at dusk to search for insects near the woodland floor. You may find it difficult to locate as its black and brown plumage is specifically designed to blend in with the leaves and dirt on the ground

#### Notes & when seen

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Small title: http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/index.php?view=detail&id=

### Black-faced Monarch

#### What to look for?

15 – 19 cm in size. This is another species of flycatcher, trembling its tail in feeding, defensive or excited situations. You will most likely find it in eucalyptus woodlands or rainforests areas on the trail searching the ground and air for insects to prey on

#### Notes & when seen

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G Little: http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/index.php?view=detail&id=16

### Golden Whistler

#### What to look for?

16 – 19 cm in size. You will hear this beautiful bird sing to you with a chee, chee, ahh, whit, from various brush or dense forest areas on the trails. However, this bird is a golden yellow only in adult males, as the females and juveniles are mostly grey and rufous

#### Notes & when seen

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M. Lane: http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/index.php?view=detail&id=133

### Rufous Fantail

#### What to look for?

15 – 17 cm in size. This bird's numbers increase during winter as southern populations migrate north in great numbers. It is a hunter of insects during flight and you will most likely find it in dense moist areas around the trails. Its most impressive feature is the consistently open fantail, which displays a bright rufous colour

#### Notes & when seen

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## Trail 2 - Scenic Trail



Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Red-backed Fairy-wren

#### What to look for?

11- 13 cm in size. This fairy-wren is small in size but large in interest, offering an array of twittering tunes and stimulating movements. The males are mostly black with a rufous collar and brown wings, where as the juveniles and females are mainly brown

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kernot

### Leaden Flycatcher

#### What to look for?

13—16 cm in size. The northern population are primarily sedentary only moving short distances locally. Darting from twig to twig they hunt insects in the mid level canopy of woodland or forest regions. Its most common feature is the up and down vibrating movements of its tail

#### Notes & when seen

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SG Lane: http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/index.php?view=detail&id=191

### Cattle Egret

#### What to look for?

48 - 53 cm in size. The Cattle Egret is the smallest egret in Australia and has obtained its name as a result of large groups sleeping near cattle. They prefer pastures or farming land and enjoy eating frogs, grasshoppers and lizards. You may have seen them before because since spreading from Asian regions their numbers have been steadily increasing

#### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Laughing Kookaburra

### What to look for?

41 – 47cm in size. The Laughing Kookaburra is an Australian icon with its exuberant call heard throughout most coastal regions of Australia. It inhabits woodland, forest or suburban areas where it can be seen settling on branches in search of frogs, snakes and worms

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Blue-faced Honeyeater

### What to look for?

30 – 32cm in size. The adult Honeyeater will have a vivid blue patch around its eyes and spinach green wings. It is a noisy active bird whose diet consists of insects, fruit and nectar, and you will usually find in pairs or small groups in tropical climates

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

### What to look for?

44 – 51 cm in size. This Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is a very adaptable member of the Parrot family, residing in a variety of habitats throughout Australia. They gather in small to large flocks feeding on seeds, nuts and fruit, and are an exceedingly popular house pet

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Olive-backed Oriole

### What to look for?

25 – 28 cm in size. It's favoured places of boisterous activity are woodlands or parks, where insects and fruits are plentiful. The female of the species is somewhat pink in colour, where as the male is a browny green with a white under-belly. Listen out for its 'orry, orry, ole' song

### Notes & when seen

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## Trail 3 - Kin Kin to Cooran



Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Rufous Whistler (Male)

### What to look for?

16 – 18 cm in size. The Rufous Whistler or 'Thunderbird' is notorious for its orange/red coloured under body and beautiful songs. It has received the nickname due to its spontaneous singing of tunes even during thunder storms. Its main source of food is insects and seeds

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Varied Triller (Female)

### What to look for?

17 – 18 cm in size. The distinguishing features to look out for are its white eyebrow and black/blue eyeliner. When searching for this bird you should explore parks and rainforests areas of the trail where there are eucalyptus or paperbark trees. Its diet consists mainly of insects

### Notes & when seen

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Photographer: Rob Kemot

## Willie Wagtail

### What to look for?

19 – 22 cm in size. Where most flycatchers shake there tails up and down, the Willie Wagtail does as its name suggests and wags its tail side to side like your pet dog. But sadly it is a declining species throughout most of Australia due to land clearing and urbanisation

### Notes & when seen

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