

# Yorkeys Knob Golf Course Lagoon Bird Species

Orange-footed Scrubfowl  
Magpie Goose  
Plumed Whistling-Duck  
Wandering Whistling-Duck  
Australian Wood Duck  
Pink-eared Duck  
Cotton Pygmy-goose  
Green Pygmy-goose  
Grey Teal  
Pacific Black Duck  
Hardhead  
Australasian Grebe  
Spotted Dove - I  
Peaceful Dove  
Bar-shouldered Dove  
Pied Imperial-Pigeon  
Australian Swiftlet  
White-throated Needletail  
Fork-tailed Swift  
Australasian Darter  
Little Pied Cormorant  
Little Black Cormorant  
Australian Pelican  
Eastern Great Egret  
Intermediate Egret  
Great-billed Heron  
Cattle Egret  
Pied Heron  
White-faced Heron  
Little Egret  
Eastern Reef Egret  
Nankeen Night-Heron  
Glossy Ibis  
Australian White Ibis  
Straw-necked Ibis  
Royal Spoonbill  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Whistling Kite  
Brahminy Kite  
Black Kite  
Purple Swamphen  
Buff-banded Rail  
White-browed Crake  
Pale-vented Bush-hen  
Dusky Moorhen  
Eurasian Coot  
Bush Stone-curlew  
Beach Stone-curlew

Black-winged Stilt  
Pacific Golden Plover  
Red-capped Plover  
Black-fronted Dotterel  
Masked Lapwing  
Comb-crested Jacana  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Whimbrel  
Eastern Curlew  
Common Sandpiper  
Common Greenshank  
Marsh Sandpiper  
Red-necked Stint  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Caspian Tern  
Silver Gull  
Galah  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Rainbow Lorikeet  
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet  
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo  
Little Bronze-Cuckoo  
Brush Cuckoo  
Azure Kingfisher  
Little Kingfisher  
Laughing Kookaburra  
Forest Kingfisher  
Sacred Kingfisher  
Collared Kingfisher  
Rainbow Bee-eater  
Yellow Honeyeater  
Brown-backed Honeyeater  
Dusky Honeyeater  
Brown Honeyeater  
White-throated Honeyeater  
Helmeted Friarbird  
Little Friarbird  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike  
Cicadabird  
Varied Triller  
Australasian Figbird  
Yellow Oriole  
White-breasted Woodswallow  
Black Butcherbird  
Spangled Drongo  
Willie Wagtail  
Torresian Crow  
Leaden Flycatcher

Shining Flycatcher  
Magpie-lark  
Golden-headed Cisticola  
Welcome Swallow  
Fairy Martin  
Metallic Starling  
Common Myna - I  
Mistletoebird  
Olive-backed Sunbird  
Double-barred Finch

Crimson Finch  
Nutmeg Mannikin - I  
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin  
House Sparrow - I  
Australasian Pipit

I - Introduced species

**111 species**

## Birdlife of the Lagoon

Wattle Street was once the access road for the local rubbish dump, which has now been landscaped as part of the Half Moon Bay Golf Course. When pollution from the dump ended, life including birds quickly returned to the lagoon. Now a small colony of Australasian Darters nest every year on the small island in the middle of the lagoon, which also provides a night time roost for many birds including Magpie Geese, Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants, several egret species and both Straw-necked and Australian White Ibis.

During the day it is often possible to find Nankeen Night Herons on the island amongst the Melaleucas. A pair of Whistling Kites has nested here, as have Brown-backed Honeyeaters. The most common duck is the Pacific Black Duck, with other species such as the Plumed and Wandering Whistling-Ducks, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck and Hardhead appearing irregularly. Green Pygmy-goose and Australasian Grebes have been seen in all months but are more likely between June-November. The White-browed Crake is often heard, with its “squeaky toy” call, along the edge in the dense grass but occasionally ventures out into the open.

On the western side of Wattle Street is a patch of mangroves and a tidal mudflat, only covered by extremely high tides over 3m. The wader (shorebird) species on the bird list are found here, and unusual sightings include Great-billed Heron. Look for roosting Bush Stone-curlews along the edge of the mangroves and mudflat - up to 46 birds have been seen here at one time.

There is a good variety of bush birds. Look for Barn Swallows (occasional summer visitors) on powerlines by the road.

The lagoon offers good opportunities for photography as the birds are within reach of a 400 mm lens. As with all golf-course birdwatching, please observe the course rules and safety procedures.

A visit to the nearby Cattana Wetlands is also worthwhile. The Cattana Wetlands is around 80 hectares of degraded land which the Cairns Regional Council have rehabilitated into a nature conservation park.. Access is from Dunne Road which is off Yorkeys Knob Road.

Names and taxonomic order used for the list follow  
*Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds*  
by L Christidis and W E Boles  
(CSIRO, Melbourne, 2008)

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# WHO ARE WE?

**Birds Australia North Queensland (BANQ)** is a regional group of the national organisation Birds Australia (Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, RAOU), formed in 1901 - the oldest Australian society concerned with national and international bird study and conservation.

The BANQ area covers Queensland from Ayr north to the Torres Strait Islands and west to the Northern Territory border. Area representatives are based in Townsville, Mount Isa, Cairns, Atherton Tableland, Mossman/ Daintree, and Cape York.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter *Contact Call* and enjoy Australia's best bird magazine *Wingspan*. Regular field trips and campouts cater for all levels of expertise from beginner to professional and emphasise fun as well as worthwhile projects.

## ***'Birding with a purpose'***

Have a real impact on the conservation of our wild birds and their habitats. Contact us ...

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For more about North Queensland birds, birding and bird conservation visit our website

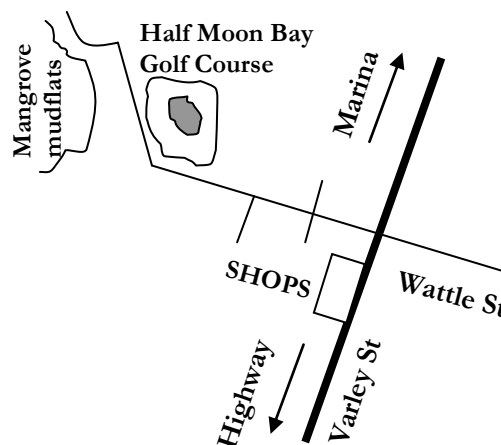
[www.birdsaustralianq.org/](http://www.birdsaustralianq.org/)

# INFORMATION

## Location and Facilities

16°48'35" S 145°42'51"E (GDA94)

14 km NW of Cairns



From the Captain Cook Highway turn right into Yorkeys Knob Road /Varley Street and continue 5km to Wattle Street. Turn left past the shops and follow the signs 500m to the Half Moon Bay Golf Course. Just past the entrance, the lagoon is on your right. Visitors are welcome at the Course which has a restaurant and other facilities. Detailed location and course maps are available on their website

[www.halfmoonbaygolf.com.au/](http://www.halfmoonbaygolf.com.au/)

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# YORKEYS KNOB

## Golf Course Lagoon Cairns

Far North Queensland

## Birds Australia North Queensland

### Birding Information and Species List

No 8



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