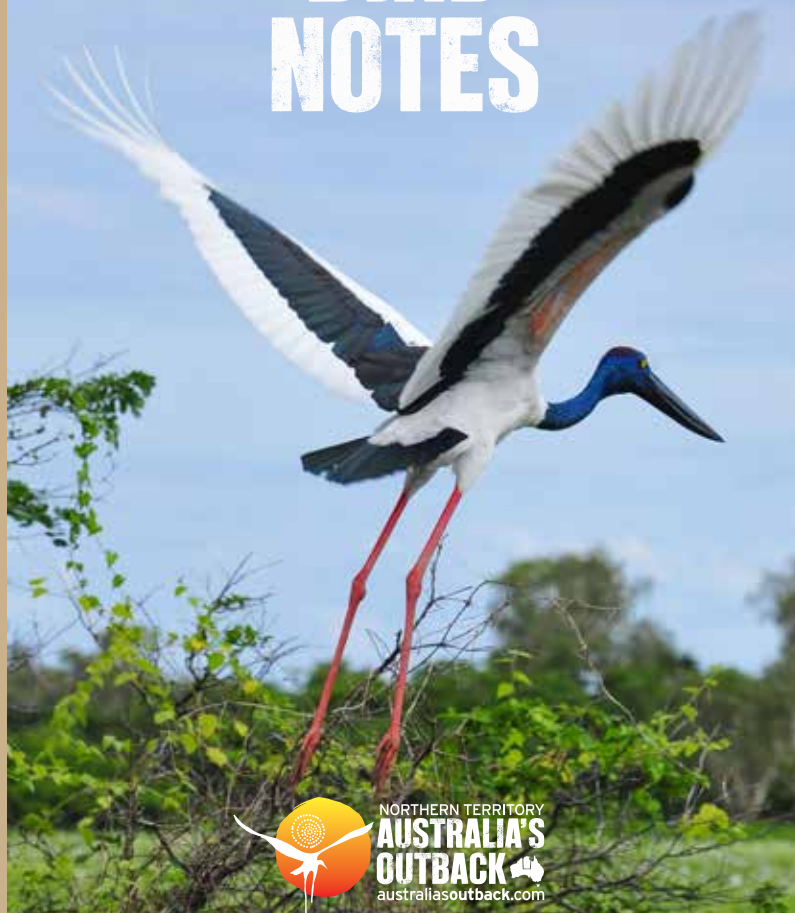


NORTHERN TERRITORY



BIRD NOTES





Gouldian Finch

Blue-Winged Kookaburra

Spinifex Pigeon



This Northern Territory Bird Notes Book belongs to:



Banded Fruit Dove

Azure Kingfisher



Rainbow Pitta

Tawny Frogmouth

White-bellied Sea-Eagle



Comb-crested Jacana

Galahs

Australasian Darter

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

boasts almost half of all bird species found in Australia and is home to two distinct and contrasting regions, the Top End and the Red Centre. This means that the range of species is impressively diverse.

This checklist, supplied by the President of Savannah Guides, details all species currently recorded in the NT.



NORTHERN TROPICS

The 'Top End' is home to vast wetlands, coastal floodplains, monsoonal rainforest, savannah woodland, impressive waterfalls and soaring escarpments. Kakadu National Park, to the east of Darwin, is Australia's largest at around 20,000 sq km, and is home to more than 280 species. The wider Top End boasts almost 400 species in total, five of which are endemic. There are many potential highlights for Finch, Red Goshawk, Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Banded Fruit-Dove, Hooded Parrot, White-lined Honeyeater and White-throated Grasswren. The Top End has two seasons. The weather is drier and cooler between May and September, when massive congregations of birds can be seen around receding water sources. The tropical summer months bring some amazing lightning shows and following the rains in December-February, the rivers, floodplains and billabongs teem with life.

TOP BIRDING SPOTS

- **Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve:** an outstanding area of forest, wetland and floodplain habitats just an hour from Darwin. Highlights include Rainbow Pitta, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove and large concentrations of waterbirds.
- **Mary River National Park:** cruise the river and search the banks for birds such as Azure Kingfisher and Australasian Darter.
- **Mamukala Wetlands:** located in Kakadu National Park, Mamukala Wetlands and Bird Hide offers the spectacle of thousands of Magpie Geese and other waterbirds congregating to feed.
- **Pine Creek:** this small town on the junction of the Stuart and Kakadu Highways is a reliable place to find the beautiful and endemic Hooded Parrot.
- **Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge):** visit Nitmiluk National Park or cruise the Katherine River. Chestnut-backed Buttonquail is a rare resident here.
- **Timber Creek:** located between Katherine and the Kimberley, Timber Creek affords rich grassy plains and escarpments ideal for searching for Grey fronted Honeyeater.

SOUTHERN DESERTS

Better known as the 'Red Centre' or 'Central Australia', this part of the Northern Territory rarely sees rain and has a very even climate. The winter months see warm days and cool nights, and summer brings higher temperatures. There is a surprising amount of water to be found in this region, largely due to the worlds' largest and deepest underground fresh water aquifer, the Great Artesian Basin, being here. The species found in the Red Centre are very different from those in the Top End and can sometimes be harder to locate. It is well worth the effort as some of Australia's most exciting birds can be found, including Orange Chat, Dusky Grasswren, Spinifex Pigeon, Bourke's Parrot, Western Bowerbird and Painted Firetail.

TOP BIRDING SPOTS

- **Palm Valley:** this ancient botanical garden located in the Finke Gorge National Park is home to Rainbow Bee-Eater and Port Lincoln Parrot, among many other species.
- **Whistle Duck Waterhole:** part of a greater network of waterholes, Whistle Duck is a serene spot for birdwatching.
- **Kings Canyon:** surrounded by the soaring red walls of the canyon, scan the skies for Wedge-tailed Eagle.
- **Ilpapa Ponds:** a great spot for local waterbirds.
- **Boggy Hole:** part of the oldest river in the world, Boggy Hole provides a permanent water source for bird life. Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Masked Woodswallow and Brown Honeyeater can be found here.
- **Newhaven Sanctuary:** with 262,000 hectares of protected land in the Great Sandy Desert, this site is home to more than 160 species of birds, including 10 threatened species.

We hope this checklist will inspire you to visit Australia's Northern Territory to see some of its amazing bird life for yourself.

PIGEONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i>										
Barbary Dove <i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>										
Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>										
Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>										
Common Bronzewing <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>										
Flock Bronzewing <i>Phaps histrionica</i>										
Crested Pigeon <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>										
Spinifex Pigeon <i>Geophaps plumifera</i>										
Partridge Pigeon <i>Geophaps smithii</i>										
White-quilled Rock-Pigeon <i>Petrophassa albipennis</i>										
Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeon <i>Petrophassa rufipennis</i>										
Diamond Dove <i>Geopelia cuneata</i>										
Peaceful Dove <i>Geopelia striata</i>										
Bar-shouldered Dove <i>Geopelia humeralis</i>										
Banded Fruit-Dove <i>Ptilinopus cinctus</i>										
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove <i>Ptilinopus regina</i>										
Elegant Imperial-Pigeon <i>Ducula concinna</i>										
Pied Imperial-Pigeon <i>Ducula bicolor</i>										
Tawny Frogmouth <i>Podargus strigoides</i>										
Spotted Nightjar <i>Eurostopodus argus</i>										
Large-tailed Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>										
Australian Owlet-nightjar <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>										
White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>										
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>										
House Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>										
Wilson's Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>										
Streaked Shearwater <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>										
Lesser Frigatebird <i>Fregata ariel</i>										
Great Frigatebird <i>Fregata minor</i>										
TOTALS										

FRIGATEBIRDS TO SPOONBILLS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Christmas Island Frigatebird <i>Fregata andrewsi</i>										
Red-footed Booby <i>Sula sula</i>										
Brown Booby <i>Sula leucogaster</i>										
Australasian Darter <i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>										
Little Pied Cormorant <i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>										
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>										
Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>										
Pied Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>										
Australian Pelican <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>										
Black-necked Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>										
Australian Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>										
Black Bittern <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>										
White-necked Heron <i>Ardea pacifica</i>										
Eastern Great Egret <i>Ardea modesta</i>										
Intermediate Egret <i>Ardea intermedia</i>										
Great-billed Heron <i>Ardea sumatrana</i>										
Cattle Egret <i>Ardea ibis</i>										
Striated Heron <i>Butorides striata</i>										
Javan Pond Heron <i>Ardeola speciosa</i>										
Pied Heron <i>Egretta picata</i>										
White-faced Heron <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>										
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>										
Eastern Reef Egret <i>Egretta sacra</i>										
Nankeen Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>										
Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>										
Australian White Ibis <i>Threskiornis molucca</i>										
Straw-necked Ibis <i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>										
Royal Spoonbill <i>Platalea regia</i>										
Yellow-billed Spoonbill <i>Platalea flavipes</i>										
TOTALS										

TERNS TO CUCKOOS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>										
Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>										
Black-tailed Gull <i>Larus crassirostris</i>										
Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>										
Silver Gull <i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>										
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>										
Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>										
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>										
Galah <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>										
Long-billed Corella <i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>										
Little Corella <i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>										
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo <i>Cacatua galerita</i>										
Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>										
Rainbow Lorikeet <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>										
Varied Lorikeet <i>Psitteuteles versicolor</i>										
Red-winged Parrot <i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>										
Princess Parrot <i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>										
Northern Rosella <i>Platycercus venustus</i>										
Australian Ringneck <i>Barnardius zonarius</i>										
Mulga Parrot <i>Psephotus varius</i>										
Hooded Parrot <i>Psephotus dissimilis</i>										
Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>										
Bourke's Parrot <i>Neopsephotus bourkii</i>										
Scarlet-chested Parrot <i>Neophema splendida</i>										
Night Parrot <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>										
Pheasant Coucal <i>Centropus phasianinus</i>										
Eastern Koel <i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>										
Channel-billed Cuckoo <i>Stythraps novaehollandiae</i>										
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo <i>Chalcites basalis</i>										
TOTALS										

CUCKOOS TO FAIRY-WRENS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Black-eared Cuckoo <i>Chalcites osculans</i>										
Little Bronze-Cuckoo <i>Chalcites minutillus</i>										
Pallid Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>										
Fan-tailed Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>										
Brush Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>										
Oriental Cuckoo <i>Cuculus optatus</i>										
Rufous Owl <i>Ninox rufa</i>										
Barking Owl <i>Ninox connivens</i>										
Southern Boobook <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>										
Masked Owl <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>										
Eastern Barn Owl <i>Tyto javanica</i>										
Eastern Grass Owl <i>Tyto longimembris</i>										
Azure Kingfisher <i>Ceyx azureus</i>										
Little Kingfisher <i>Ceyx pusilla</i>										
Blue-winged Kookaburra <i>Dacelo leachii</i>										
Forest Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus macleayi</i>										
Red-backed Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>										
Sacred Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>										
Collared Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus chloris</i>										
Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>										
Dollarbird <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>										
Rainbow Pitta <i>Pitta iris</i>										
White-browed Treecreeper <i>Climacteris affinis</i>										
Black-tailed Treecreeper <i>Climacteris melanura</i>										
Spotted Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus maculatus</i>										
Western Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus guttatus</i>										
Great Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis</i>										
Splendid Fairy-wren <i>Malurus splendens</i>										
Purple-crowned Fairy-wren <i>Malurus coronatus</i>										
TOTALS										

FAIRY-WRENS TO HONEYEATERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Red-backed Fairy-wren <i>Malurus melanocephalus</i>										
White-winged Fairy-wren <i>Malurus leucopterus</i>										
Variigated Fairy-wren <i>Malurus lamberti</i>										
Rufous-crowned Emu-wren <i>Stipiturus ruficeps</i>										
Grey Grasswren <i>Amytornis barbatus</i>										
Striated Grasswren <i>Amytornis striatus</i>										
White-throated Grasswren <i>Amytornis woodwardi</i>										
Carpentarian Grasswren <i>Amytornis dorotheae</i>										
Thick-billed Grasswren <i>Amytornis textilis</i>										
Dusky Grasswren <i>Amytornis purnelli</i>										
Eyrean Grasswren <i>Amytornis goyderi</i>										
Rufous Fieldwren <i>Calamanthus campestris</i>										
Redthroat <i>Pyrholaemus brunneus</i>										
Weebill <i>Smicromis brevirostris</i>										
Mangrove Gerygone <i>Gerygone levigaster</i>										
Western Gerygone <i>Gerygone fusca</i>										
Large-billed Gerygone <i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>										
Green-backed Gerygone <i>Gerygone chloronota</i>										
White-throated Gerygone <i>Gerygone albogularis</i>										
Slaty-backed Thornbill <i>Acanthiza robustirostris</i>										
Yellow-rumped Thornbill <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>										
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill <i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>										
Slender-billed Thornbill <i>Acanthiza iredalei</i>										
Inland Thornbill <i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>										
Southern Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>										
Banded Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala nigricincta</i>										
Red-browed Pardalote <i>Pardalotus rubricatus</i>										
Striated Pardalote <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>										
Pied Honeyeater <i>Certhionyx variegatus</i>										
TOTALS										

HONEYEATERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
White-lined Honeyeater <i>Meliphaga albilineata</i>										
Singing Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>										
White-gaped Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus unicolor</i>										
Grey-headed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus keartlandi</i>										
Grey-fronted Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus plumulus</i>										
Yellow-tinted Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus flavescens</i>										
White-plumed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>										
Yellow-throated Miner <i>Manorina flavigula</i>										
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>										
Bar-breasted Honeyeater <i>Ramsayornis fasciatus</i>										
Rufous-banded Honeyeater <i>Conopophila albogularis</i>										
Rufous-throated Honeyeater <i>Conopophila rufogularis</i>										
Grey Honeyeater <i>Conopophila whitei</i>										
Crimson Chat <i>Epthianura tricolor</i>										
Orange Chat <i>Epthianura aurifrons</i>										
Yellow Chat <i>Epthianura crocea</i>										
Gibberbird <i>Ashbyia lovensis</i>										
Black Honeyeater <i>Sugomel niger</i>										
Dusky Honeyeater <i>Myzomela obscura</i>										
Red-headed Honeyeater <i>Myzomela erythrocephala</i>										
Banded Honeyeater <i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>										
Brown Honeyeater <i>Lichmera indistincta</i>										
Black-chinned Honeyeater <i>Melithreptus gularis</i>										
White-throated Honeyeater <i>Melithreptus albogularis</i>										
Blue-faced Honeyeater <i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>										
Helmeted Friarbird <i>Philemon buceroides</i>										
Silver-crowned Friarbird <i>Philemon argenteiceps</i>										
Little Friarbird <i>Philemon citreogularis</i>										
Painted Honeyeater <i>Grantiella picta</i>										
TOTALS										

BABLERS TO WOODSWALLOWS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Grey-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>										
White-browed Babbler <i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>										
Chestnut-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus ruficeps</i>										
Cinnamon Quail-thrush <i>Cinclosoma cinnamomeum</i>										
Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush <i>Cinclosoma castaneothorax</i>										
Chirruping Wedgebill <i>Psophodes cristatus</i>										
Chiming Wedgebill <i>Psophodes occidentalis</i>										
Varied Sittella <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>										
Ground Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina maxima</i>										
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>										
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina papuensis</i>										
Cicadabird <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>										
White-winged Triller <i>Lalage sueurii</i>										
Varied Triller <i>Lalage leucomela</i>										
Crested Shrike-tit <i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>										
Mangrove Golden Whistler <i>Pachycephala melanura</i>										
Grey Whistler <i>Pachycephala simplex</i>										
Rufous Whistler <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>										
White-breasted Whistler <i>Pachycephala laniioides</i>										
Little Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>										
Sandstone Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla woodwardi</i>										
Grey Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>										
Crested Bellbird <i>Oreocia gutturalis</i>										
Australasian Figbird <i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>										
Yellow Oriole <i>Oriolus flavocinctus</i>										
Olive-backed Oriole <i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>										
White-breasted Woodswallow <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>										
Masked Woodswallow <i>Artamus personatus</i>										
White-browed Woodswallow <i>Artamus superciliosus</i>										
TOTALS										

WOODSWALLOWS TO ROBINS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Black-faced Woodswallow <i>Artamus cinereus</i>										
Little Woodswallow <i>Artamus minor</i>										
Black Butcherbird <i>Cracticus quoyi</i>										
Grey Butcherbird <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>										
Pied Butcherbird <i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>										
Australian Magpie <i>Cracticus tibicen</i>										
Grey Currawong <i>Strepera versicolor</i>										
Spangled Drongo <i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>										
Arafura Fantail <i>Rhipidura dryas</i>										
Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>										
Mangrove Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura phasiana</i>										
Northern Fantail <i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>										
Willie Wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>										
Australian Raven <i>Corvus coronoides</i>										
Little Crow <i>Corvus bennetti</i>										
Torresian Crow <i>Corvus orru</i>										
Broad-billed Flycatcher <i>Myiagra ruficollis</i>										
Leadend Flycatcher <i>Myiagra rubecula</i>										
Shining Flycatcher <i>Myiagra alecto</i>										
Restless Flycatcher <i>Myiagra inquieta</i>										
Black-faced Monarch <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>										
Magpie-lark <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>										
Apostlebird <i>Struthidea cinerea</i>										
Jacky Winter <i>Microeca fascians</i>										
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher <i>Microeca flavigaster</i>										
Red-capped Robin <i>Petroica goodenovii</i>										
Hooded Robin <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>										
Mangrove Robin <i>Peneonanthe pulverulenta</i>										
Buff-sided Robin <i>Poecilodryas cerviniventris</i>										
TOTALS										

OTHER INFORMATION

USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES

www.australiasoutback.com/birdwatching

Birds and birding information from Tourism NT, including birding locations, accommodation, events and a round-up of the best deals on birdwatching breaks.

www.environment.gov.au/parks/kakadu

This government site has information about Kakadu National Park and its birds - more than 280 species.

www.ntbirds.net

Niven McCrie's website Birds of the Northern Territory covers the Top End, including where to bird, useful books and checklists.

www.savannah-guides.com.au

A network of professional tour guides with a collective in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural assets of the tropical savannahs of Northern Territory and other regions. A very useful guide for anyone wanting to source their own guide in parts of the NT.

www.territorydiscoveries.com/experiences/bird-watching

Territory Discoveries offers accommodation and birding tours in the Top End and central Northern Territory.

BOOKS

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia by Ken Simpson and Nicolas Day (seventh edition, Christopher Helm, 2004). Call 020 8881 0550 or visit www.birdwatch.co.uk to order.

Finding Birds in Darwin, Kakadu and the Top End by Niven McCrie and James Watson (second edition, NT Birding, 2009; order at www.ntbirds.net).

Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds by Les Christidis and Walter E Boles (second edition, CSIRO Publishing, 2008).

TOPOGRAPHY

The diagram below indicates the main bird parts and feather tracts.

