

Atherton Township Bird Species

Australian Brush-turkey
Orange-footed Scrubfowl
Stubble Quail
Brown Quail
Magpie Goose
Plumed Whistling-Duck
Wandering Whistling-Duck
Pacific Black Duck
Rock Dove - I
White-headed Pigeon
Spotted Dove - I
Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Emerald Dove
Peaceful Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove
Wompoo Fruit-Dove
Superb Fruit-Dove
Topknot Pigeon
Large-tailed Nightjar
Australian Owlet-Nightjar
Australian Swiftlet
White-throated Needletail
Fork-tailed Swift
Australasian Darter
Little Pied Cormorant
Australian Pelican
White-necked Heron
White-faced Heron
Nankeen Night-Heron
Australian White Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Royal Spoonbill
Black-shouldered Kite
Square-tailed Kite
Pacific Baza
White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Whistling Kite
Brahminy Kite
Black Kite
Brown Goshawk

Collared Sparrowhawk
Grey Goshawk
Spotted Harrier
Swamp Harrier
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Little Eagle
Nankeen Kestrel
Brown Falcon
Australian Hobby
Peregrine Falcon
Sarus Crane
Brolga
Purple Swamphen
Red-necked Crake
Buff-banded Rail
Pale-vented Bush-hen
Bush Stone-curlew
Masked Lapwing
Sooty Tern
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Rainbow Lorikeet
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Little Lorikeet
Double-eyed Fig-Parrot
Australian King-Parrot
Crimson Rosella
Pale-headed Rosella
Pheasant Coucal
Eastern Koel
Channel-billed Cuckoo
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Little Bronze-Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Brush Cuckoo
Oriental Cuckoo
Barking Owl
Southern Boobook
Eastern Barn Owl

Azure Kingfisher
Laughing Kookaburra
Forest Kingfisher
Sacred Kingfisher
Rainbow Bee-eater
Dollarbird
White-throated Treecreeper
Spotted Catbird
Golden Bowerbird - E
Satin Bowerbird
Red-backed Fairy-wren
White-browed Scrubwren
Atherton Scrubwren - E
Large-billed Scrubwren
Brown Gerygone
Fairy Gerygone
White-throated Gerygone
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Eastern Spinebill
Lewin's Honeyeater
Bridled Honeyeater - E
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Yellow Honeyeater
Noisy Miner
Brown-backed Honeyeater
Dusky Honeyeater
Scarlet Honeyeater
Banded Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
White-cheeked Honeyeater
White-throated Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Noisy Friarbird
Little Friarbird
Macleay's Honeyeater - E
Eastern Whipbird
Varied Sittella
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Barred Cuckoo-shrike
Cicadabird
White-winged Triller
Varied Triller
Crested Shrike-tit
Golden Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Little Shrike-thrush
Bower's Shrike-thrush - E
Grey Shrike-thrush
Australasian Figbird
Olive-backed Oriole
White-breasted Woodswallow
Pied Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Pied Currawong
Spangled Drongo
Rufous Fantail
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Torresian Crow
Leaden Flycatcher
Satin Flycatcher
Black-faced Monarch
Spectacled Monarch
Magpie-lark
Pied Monarch - E
Yellow-breasted Boatbill
Victoria's Riflebird - E
Pale-yellow Robin
Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey-headed Robin - E
Golden-headed Cisticola
Tawny Grassbird
Silvereye
Welcome Swallow
Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Metallic Starling

Common Myna - I
Mistletoebird
Olive-backed Sunbird
Double-barred Finch
Red-browed Finch
Nutmeg Mannikin - I

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
House Sparrow - I

167 species

E - Wet Tropics endemics
I - Introduced birds

Bush Stone-curlews, many honeyeaters, Leaden Flycatcher and Spotted Pardalote are among species that nest in Atherton gardens. More specialised birds like Double-Eyed Fig-Parrot breed in rainforest remnants but regularly feed in fruiting trees, especially native figs, in the township.

Many raptors (birds of prey) hunt high over town or along creek lines. Bridled Honeyeaters and young Golden Bowerbirds are two Wet Tropics endemic birds that visit town from larger rainforest areas in winter (Dry, non-breeding season). In winter also, Sarus Cranes can be conspicuous flying low over town en route to nearby Hasties Swamp - see BANQ Brochure No 10.

New or unusual sightings in Atherton?

Contact us!

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'Birding with a purpose'

This list is based on BANQ surveys on Prior's Creek, Atherton with extra records by G Holmes. Names and taxonomic order follow *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds* by L Christidis and W E Boles (CSIRO, Melbourne, 2008). Produced for BANQ by E Scambler.

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.

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INFORMATION

Atherton is the centre of an important agricultural district relying mainly on basalt volcanic soils, close to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. A surprising range of birdlife can be seen within the Township in remnants of eucalypt woodland, rare dry "Mabi" rainforest, street trees and private gardens. Most of the rainforest is along Prior's and Mazlin Creeks and on Halloran's Hill, an extinct volcanic crater.

Halloran's Hill Conservation Park covers 25.4ha and has over 100 bird species, as well as mammals such as Red-legged Pademelon. National Park field staff have replanted degraded rainforest sections and use fire to protect the eucalypt woodland from invading weeds and rainforest.

Location and Facilities

17°15'49"S 145°28'41"E (GDA 94)

84km SW of Cairns via the Gillies Highway

100km SW of Cairns via Kuranda and Kennedy Highway

**Atherton Tableland Information Centre
Cnr Silo Rd & Main St/Herberton Rd**

Ph. (07) 4091 4222

www.athertoninformationcentre.com.au

Atherton is a medium-sized town with extensive accommodation and shopping facilities. The Halloran's Hill Conservation Park walking track (1.4km one-way) starts at the council picnic area in Maunds Rd near Prior's Creek, with tables, BBQs, playground and toilets.

The track continues up Halloran's Hill, down into the crater, then uphill again to a lookout with displays and extensive views of the Tableland and mountain ranges.

ATHERTON TOWNSHIP

Atherton Tableland

Far North Queensland

Birds Australia North Queensland

Birding Information and Species List

No 19



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