

# BIRDS TO TICK OFF YOUR BIRDWATCHERS LIST

23 Nov, 16 by Fiona Harper

Look up in the trees and you'll soon see why birdwatchers, affectionately known as twitchers are "flocking" to Tropical North Queensland. Twitchers (who are easy to spot – usually with binoculars slung around their necks and wearing shades of khaki) come here to try tick some of the 450 bird species that inhabit the region off their list. 13 of these delightful flutterers are endemic to North Queensland. To give yourself the best chance of spotting these birds you'll need to head to higher altitude rainforests in the Atherton Tablelands.

The Wet Tropics endemic species are:

- Lesser Setty Owl
- Tooth-billed Bowerbird
- Golden Bowerbird
- Fernwren
- Atherton Scrubwren
- Mountain thornbill
- Bridled Honeyeater
- Macleay's Honeyeater
- Chowchilla
- Bower's Strike-Thrush
- Pied Monarch
- Victoria's Riflebird
- Grey-headed Robin

No matter the time of year there are always birds to see. From October to April migrant species such as Buff-breasted paradise Kingfisher, Channel-billed Cuckoo and the Eastern Koel arrive from Papua New Guinea. Others, like the Noisy Pitta are breeding at this time and are easier to observe as they hunt for food.



Jabiru

## BIRD WATCHING SEASONS

From May to September keep an eye out for Victoria's Reiflebird and winter breeders such as White-eared Monarch. The Daintree rainforest, Cairns foreshore, Cattana Wetlands and Mareeba Wetlands are all good spots to settle down and watch the birdlife.

Check out the photos below for some of the birds you'll likely spot and make a plan to visit one of the many wildlife, rainforest or nature parks for fabulous bird watching opportunities. Some even have accommodation in the forest so you can wake up with the birds!

## BIRD WATCHING LOCATIONS

Birdworld Kuranda

Cairns Wildlife Dome

Canopy Rainforest Treehouses and Wildlife Sanctuary

Daintree Discovery Centre

Hartleys Crocodile Adventures

Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands

Rainforestation Nature Park

Red Mill House

Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat

Thala Beach Nature Reserve

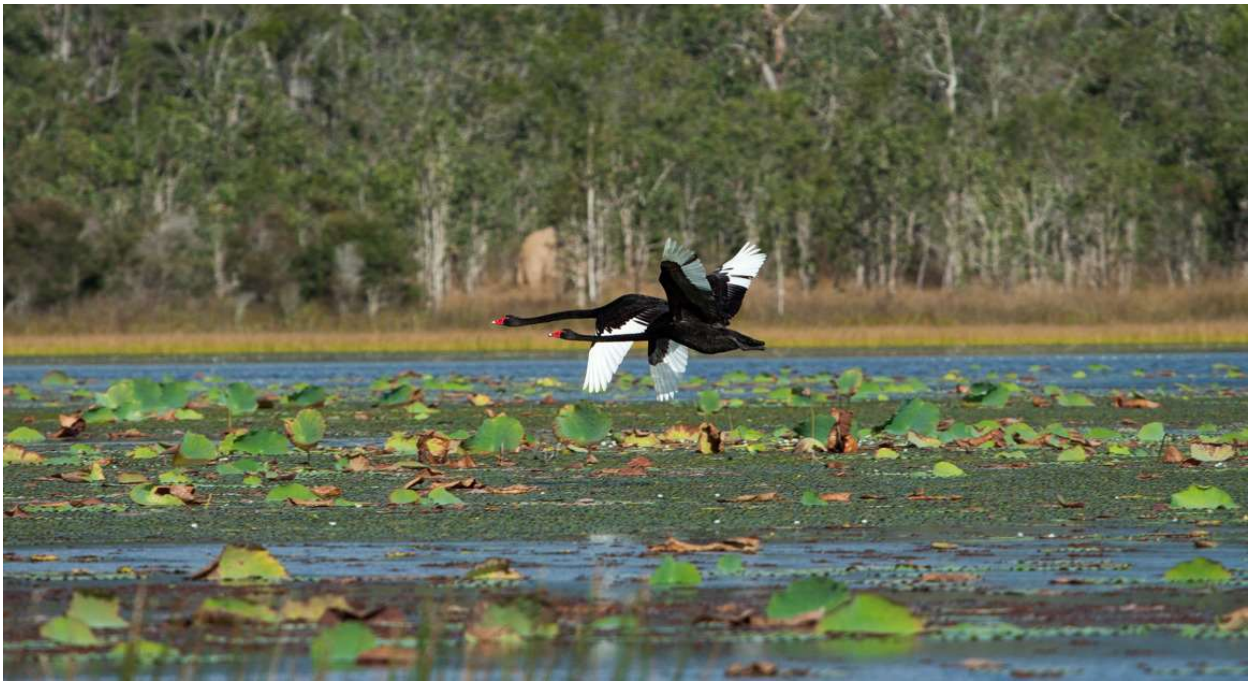
Skyrail Rainforest Cableway

Wildlife Habitat



Eclectus parrot at Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas





Black swans flying over the lagoon at Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands



Emu at Jabiru Safari Lodge Mareeba Wetlands.

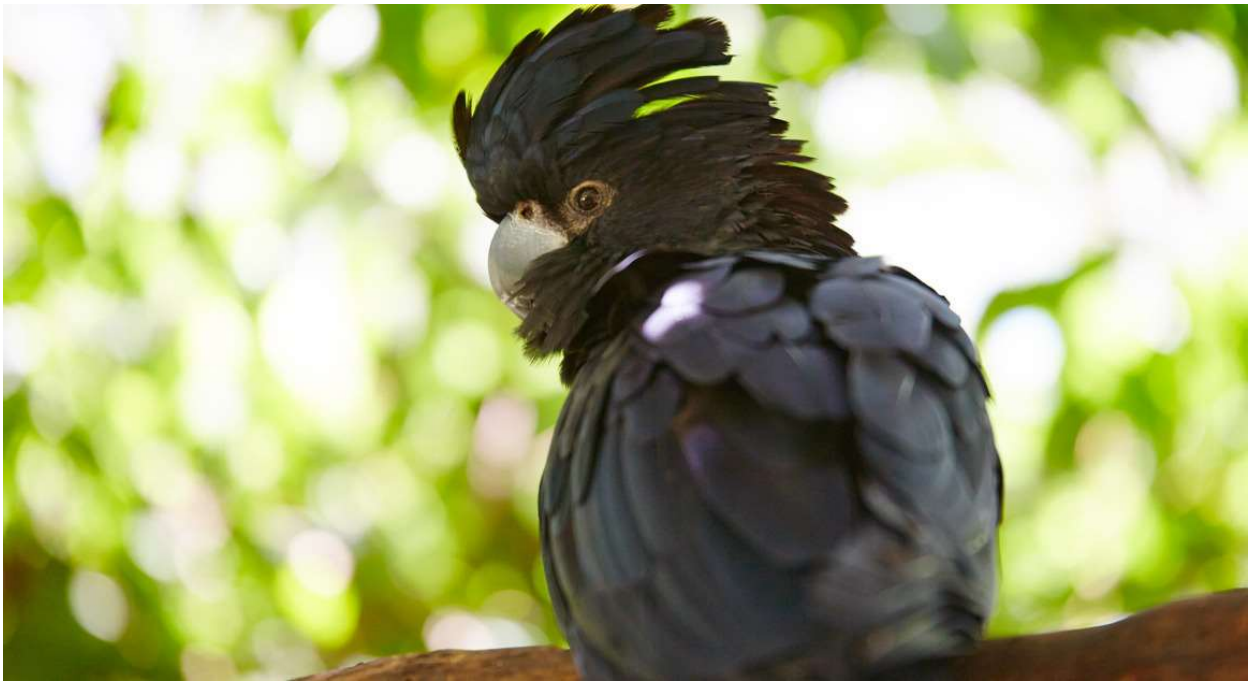




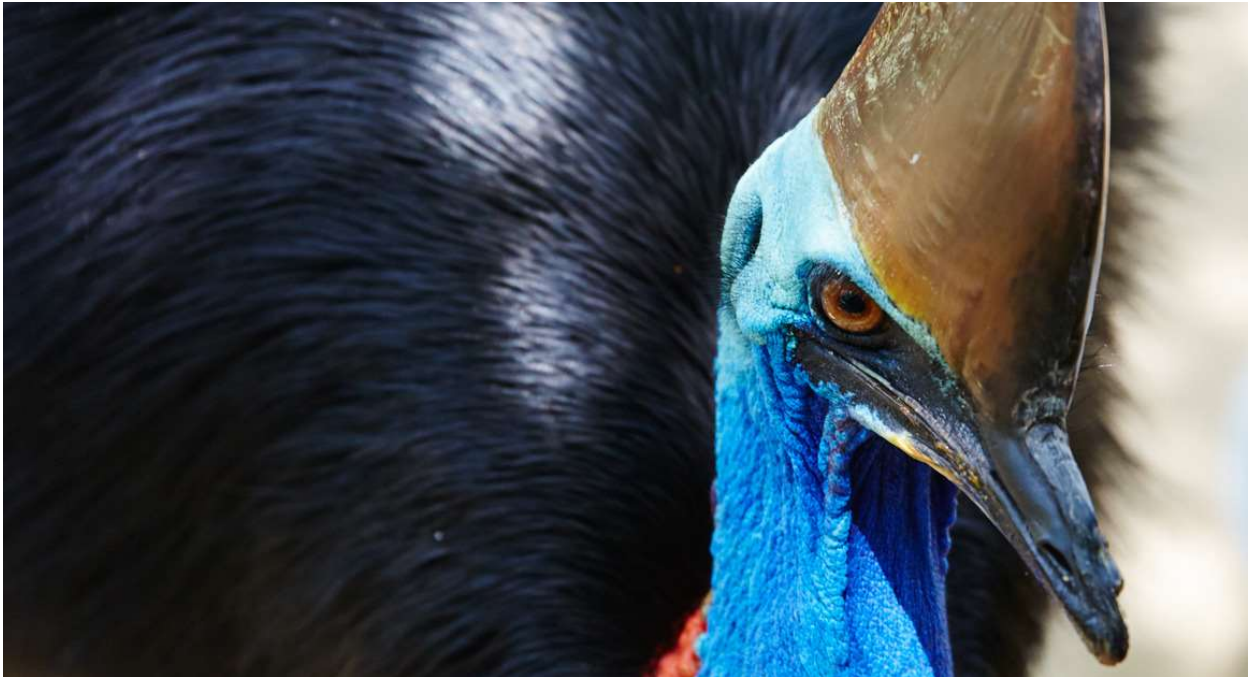
Frogmouth owl at Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas.



Sulphur crested white cockatoo at the Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas.



Red tailed black cockatoo at the Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas.



Cassowary at the Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas.





Rainbow lorikeets at the Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas.



Gouldian finches at Jabiru Safari Lodge at the Mareeba Wetlands.

Fiona Harper is Cairns based travel writer. Widely travelled, highly acclaimed and much published, Fiona's articles & images are published across the globe. When she's not writing about TNQ she's probably running a marathon or exploring the world by foot, bike, kayak, camel or boat: whatever mode of transport she can get her hands on!