

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
Barn Swallow (*Vagrant*)
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

112 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)

Original text by Keith and Lindsay Fisher

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WHO ARE WE?

BirdLife Northern Queensland

is a branch of the national organisation BirdLife Australia, formed in 2012 by the merger of Birds Australia and BOCA.

BirdLife Northern Queensland organizes both scientific and social activities. These include bird surveys, outings, workshops and presentations with guest speakers. The regular field trips and campouts cater for all levels of expertise from beginner to professional and emphasise fun as well as worthwhile conservation projects.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter *Contact Call* detailing local activities and also enjoy *BirdLife Australia* magazine dealing with national bird issues.

You can join BirdLife Australia and help the conservation of Australian birds at www.birdlife.org.au

New or unusual sightings?

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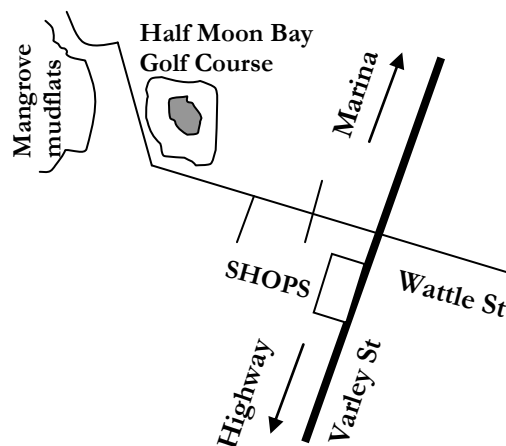
www.ereмаea.com

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/

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YORKEYS KNOB

Golf Course Lagoon

Bird Checklist No 8



BirdLife Northern Queensland



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