

# Mount Isa and District Bird Checklist

Emu	R,Sv	Whistling Kite	C,Rs	Whiskered Tern	C,Rs	Yellow Chat	R,Sv
Stubble Quail	R,S?	Black Kite	C,Rs	White-winged Black-tern	R,Sv	Black Honeyeater	R,Sv
Brown Quail	U,Rs	Brown Goshawk	U,Rs	Silver Gull	C,Rs	Banded Honeyeater	R,Sv
Plumed Whistling Duck	C,Sv	Collared Sparrowhawk	U,Rs	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	R,Sv	Brown Honeyeater	C,Rs
Wandering Whistling-Duck	C,Sv	Spotted Harrier	R,S?	Galah	C,Rs	Black-chinned Honeyeater	C,Rs
Freckled Duck	R,Sv	Wedge-tailed Eagle	C,Rs	Little Corella	C,Rs	Blue-faced Honeyeater	R,Sv
Black Swan	C,Rs	Little Eagle	U,S?	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	C,Rs	Silver-crowned Friarbird	U,Rs
Australian Wood Duck	C,Rs	Nankeen Kestrel	C,Rs	Cockatiel	C,Rs	Little Friarbird	C,Rs
Pink-eared Duck	C,Rs	Brown Falcon	C,Rs	Varied Lorikeet	C,Sv	Grey-crowned Babbler	C,Rs
Cotton Pygmy Goose	R,Sv	Australian Hobby	C,Rs	Rainbow Lorikeet	R,Sv	Varied Sittella	R,Rs
Green Pygmy Goose	C,Rs	Grey Falcon	R,S?	Red-winged Parrot	C,Rs	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	R,Sv
Australian Shoveller	R,Sv	Black Falcon	R,S?	Australian Ringneck	C,Rs	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	C,Rs
Grey Teal	C,Rs	Peregrine Falcon	R,S?	Budgerigar	C,Sv	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	U,Rs
Pacific Black Duck	C,Rs	Brolga	U,Rs	Pheasant Coucal	U,Rs	White-winged Triller	C,Rs
Hardhead	C,Rs	Purple Swamphen	C,Rs	Eastern Koel	C,Mn	Rufous Whistler	C,Rs
Australasian Grebe	C,Rs	Buff-banded Rail	U,Rs	Channel-billed Cuckoo	U,Mn	Grey Shrike-thrush	C,Rs
Hoary-headed Grebe	C,Rs	Baillon's Crane	R,S?	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	U,Sv	Crested Bellbird	U,Rs
Great Crested Grebe	C,Rs	Australian Spotted Crane	R,S?	Black-eared Cuckoo	R,S?	Olive-backed Oriole	C,Rs
Rock Dove	C,Rs	Spotless Crane	R,S?	Pallid Cuckoo	U,Sv	White-breasted Woodswallow	C,Rs
Spotted Dove	C,Rs	Black-tailed Native-hen	U,Sv	Brush Cuckoo	R,Sv	Masked Woodswallow	C,Sv
Common Bronzewing	C,Rs	Dusky Moorhen	C,Rs	Southern Boobook	C,Rs	White-browed Woodswallow	U,Sv
Flock Bronzewing	R,Sv	Eurasian Coot	C,Rs	Barking Owl	R,S?	Black-faced Woodswallow	C,Rs
Crested Pigeon	C,Rs	Australian Bustard	U,Rs	Blue-winged Kookaburra	C,Rs	Little Woodswallow	C,Rs
Spinifex Pigeon	C,Rs	Bush Stone-curler	R,Rs	Red-backed Kingfisher	C,Rs	Pied Butcherbird	C,Rs
Diamond Dove	C,Rs	Black-winged Stilt	C,Rs	Sacred Kingfisher	C,Rs	Australian Magpie	C,Rs
Peaceful Dove	C,Rs	Red-necked Avocet	U,Sv	Azure Kingfisher	R,Rs	Grey Fantail	U,Sv
Tawny Frogmouth	U,Rs	Pacific Golden Plover	R,Mn	Rainbow Bee-eater	C,Sv	Willie Wagtail	C,Rs
Spotted Nightjar	U,Rs	Grey Plover	R,Mn	Dollarbird	U,Mn	Australian Raven	C,Rs
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	U,Rs	Red-capped Plover	U,Mn	Black-tailed Treecreeper	C,Rs	Torresian Crow	U,Rs
Australasian Darter	C,Rs	Oriental Plover	U,Mn	Spotted Bowerbird	C,Rs	Restless Flycatcher	C,Rs
Little Pied Cormorant	C,Rs	Black-fronted Dotteral	C,Rs	Great Bowerbird	C,Rs	Magpie Lark	C,Rs
Great Cormorant	C,Rs	Red-kneed Dotteral	U,Rs	Red-backed Fairy-wren	C,Rs	Apostlebird	C,Rs
Pied Cormorant	U,Rs	Banded Lapwing	R,Sv	White-winged Fairy-wren	C,Rs	Jacky Winter	C,Rs
Little Black Cormorant	C,Rs	Masked Lapwing	C,Rs	Variegated Fairy-wren	C,Rs	Red-capped Robin	R,S?
Australian Pelican	C,Rs	Comb-crested Jacana	C,Rs	Carpentaria Grasswren	U,Rs	Hooded Robin	C,Rs
Black-necked Stork	U,Rs	Australian Painted Snipe	R,S?	Kalkadoon Grasswren	C,Rs	Horsefield's Bushlark	R,Sv
Black Bittern	R,Sv	Swinhoe's Snipe	R,Mn	Weebill	C,Rs	Golden-headed Cisticola	U,Rs
White-necked Heron	C,Rs	Black-tailed Godwit	U,Mn	Western Gerygone	R,Sv	Australian Reed-Warbler	C,Rs
Eastern Great Egret	C,Rs	Little Curlew	R,Mn	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	U,Rs	Little Grassbird	U,S?
Intermediate Egret	C,Rs	Common Sandpiper	U,Mn	Inland Thornbill	R,Sv	Rufous Songlark	U,Sv
Cattle Egret	C,Rs	Common Greenshank	U,Mn	Red-browed Pardalote	C,Rs	Brown Songlark	R,Sv
White-faced Heron	C,Rs	Marsh Sandpiper	C,Mn	Striated Pardalote	C,Rs	Spinifexbird	C,Rs
Little Egret	C,Rs	Wood Sandpiper	C,Rs	Pied Honeyeater	R,Sv	Welcome Swallow	U,Rs
Nankeen Night-Heron	U,Rs	Ruddy Turnstone	R,Mn	Singing Honeyeater	C,Rs	Fairy Martin	C,Rs
Glossy Ibis	C,Rs	Red-necked Stint	U,Mn	White-gaped Honeyeater	R,Sv	Tree Martin	U,Rs
Australian White Ibis	C,Rs	Long-toed Stint	R,Sv	Grey-headed Honeyeater	C,Rs	Mistletoebird	C,Rs
Straw-necked Ibis	C,Sv	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	C,Mn	Grey-fronted Honeyeater	C,Rs	Zebra Finch	C,Rs
Royal Spoonbill	C,Rs	Curlew Sandpiper	R,Mn	Yellow-tinted Honeyeater	C,Rs	Double Barred Finch	C,Rs
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	U,Rs	Red-necked Phalarope	R,Mn	White-plumed Honeyeater	C,Rs	Long-tailed Finch	U,Rs
Eastern Osprey	R,S?	Little Button-quail	U,S?	Yellow-throated Miner	C,Rs	Painted Finch	U,Rs
Black-shouldered Kite	U,Rs	Oriental Pratincole	R,Mn	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	C,Sv	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	U,Rs
Square Tailed Kite	R,S?	Australian Pratincole	C,Mn	Rufous-throated Honeyeater	C,Rs	Pictorella Mannikin	U,Rs
Black-breasted Buzzard	R,S?	Gull-billed Tern	U,Sv	Crimson Chat	U,Sv	House Sparrow	C,Rs
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	C,Rs	Caspian Tern	C,Sv	Orange Chat	R,Sv	Australian Pipit	C,Rs

## LIST ANNOTATIONS

### Abundance

**C=Common** Likely to be recorded on most visits  
**U=Uncommon** Recorded regularly but not every visit  
**R=Rare** Recorded infrequently

### Seasonal status

**Rs=Resident**, believed to occur in the area all year  
**Mn=Migrant from the North**, approx Oct-Mar  
**Sv=Seasonal Visitor from within Australia**  
**S?=Status uncertain**

**Definition:** The C/U/R annotations in this list give an indication of how easy or difficult it might be to find a species. They indicate the likelihood that an experienced birder might record the species, during a day bird-watching, at the right time of year, in the appropriate habitat.

The abundance of birdlife in inland Australia is highly variable. It is principally dependant on rainfall which then effects availability of food such as insects, flowering plants, seeding grasses etc. Despite this variation it is still possible to help visitors by indicating their chances of recording the species that regularly occur.

Some species are regular summer visitors from countries to the North. Other species are opportunistic seasonal visitors from other parts of Australia which may move to the area to exploit suitable food sources or to escape drier conditions elsewhere.

At the time of writing, Mount Isa has been blessed by a few years of good rainfall. This information reflects these conditions. Perhaps it will change if drier times return.

This list prepared with kind assistance from Bob Forsyth and a study of 1500 Birds Australia Atlas surveys in the area.

**216 Species**

# 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](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

## Mount Isa Tourist Information Centre

19 Marian St, Mount Isa (07) 4749 1555

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

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).

Updated April 2013

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# INFORMATION

**Mount Isa**, in NW Queensland on the Leichardt River, is surrounded by rugged Spinifex covered hills and open snappy gum woodland.. This list gives visitors an indication of species they might record within about 70 km of the city.

Specialties include Spinifexbird, Painted Finch and Black-tailed Treecreeper. But most visitors come to try their luck looking for the two local grasswren species. The Kalkadoon Grasswren is common on spinifex covered hillsides. The Carpentaria Grasswren is perhaps harder to find. Recent surveys by BirdLife indicate its range is diminishing and its conservation status is being upgraded. The CGW may still be found at few localities. We hope that recent years of good rainfall will help increase numbers of its insect food source and help the numbers bounce back.

Kalkadoon Grasswren—Try Mica Creek and area. Drive 6km South from the CBD on the Djarra Road. Walk up the hills.

Carpentaria Grasswren—Try McNamara's Rd. Drive 61km West from Mount Isa towards Camoweal, then 18km North along McNamara's Road. Stop at the cairn. Make sure you record your findings in the visitor book.

Lake Moondarra, the Mount Isa sewage works and surrounding horse paddocks are always worth checking and may contain significant numbers of water and shorebirds.

Other common fauna include Purple-necked Rock wallaby, Agile Wallaby, Euro and Freshwater Crocodile.

***New or unusual sightings?  
Register with Eremaea Birds  
[www.ereamae.com](http://www.ereamae.com)***

# Mount Isa

## & DISTRICT

### Bird Checklist No 23



**BirdLife  
Northern Queensland**



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