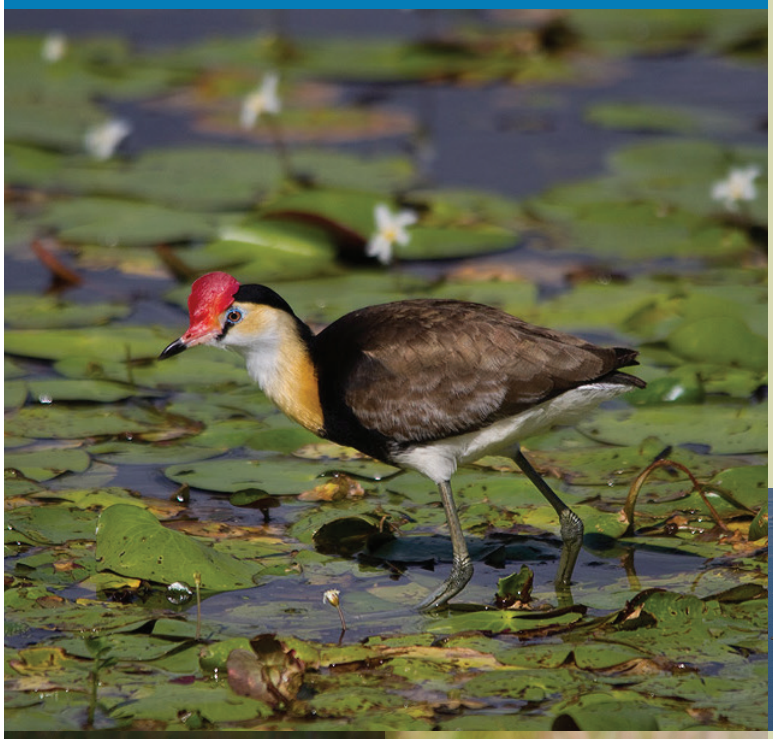
Birds of the Byron Wetlands

A Birdwatchers guide to the Wetlands

Prepared by members of Byron Bird Buddies



Welcome to the Byron Wetlands

The Byron Wetlands is within the traditional country of the Bundjalung (Arakwal) people of Byron Bay.

Wetlands are natural or constructed areas of land where water covers the soil for all or part of the year. The Byron Wetlands are constructed wetlands and form part of the 100 ha Byron Integrated Management Reserve – an award-winning example of how good resource management in action can minimise the impact of the sewage treatment plant on the surrounding ecosystems and, in addition, create a wonderful natural habitat for the support of local flora and fauna diversity.

With a list of over 227 species already sighted, the wetlands have gained a reputation as a great place to birdwatch when visiting Byron. Habitats and seasons will define where you are likely to see the birds; a variety of water levels provide for different types of waterbirds and shorebirds. You may see an Arctic-breeding migratory wader feeding along the pond edges, a Comb-crested Jacana walking on the lily-pads or an Australian Grebe diving for its food. The reeds and heath provide shelter for ground and lower storey birds such as wrens, the melaleucas and banksias provide nectar for honeyeaters, thornbills feed on insects in the wattles, the top storey is preferred by the Striated Pardalote and don't forget to check the skies for raptors and martins.

Remember, dress appropriately and always protect yourself against sunburn. A pair of binocular and a good field guide of Australian birds will no doubt enhance your visit.

Access – residents and visitors need to complete an application form which can be found on Byron Shires Council's website: www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Special thanks go to photographers: Debra Pearse, Ross Hollands & Larry Larstead

To contact Byron Bird Buddies, report a new bird sighting or return the tick list with details regarding date, time & cell where birds were sited email: byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com or mail to BBB, PO Box 6, Brunswick Heads, NSW 2483. Download a PDF of the brochure: www.byronbirddbuddies.com.au

www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au www.birdlife.org.au www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Birds you may see at the Byron Wetlands

Approximately 227 bird species have been recorded at the Byron Wetlands. Many of the birds are nomadic or migratory; they may be at the wetlands for only short periods.

Key Relative to the Byron Wetlands; threatened species are highlighted & birds are listed by habitat eg waterbirds to bushbirds.
C = Common at the wetlands
U = Uncommon at the wetlands
R = Rare at the wetlands
I = Introduced species

Frigatebirds, Terns & Gulls
- ○ Lesser Frigatebird **R**
- ○ Great Frigatebird **R**
- ○ Little Tern **R**
- ○ Gull-billed Tern **R**
- ○ Whiskered Tern **U**
- ○ White-winged Black Tern **R**
- ○ Crested Tern **U**
- ○ Silver Gull **U**

Cormorants, Pelicans & Darters
- ○ Australasian Darter **C**
- ○ Little Pied Cormorant **C**
- ○ Great Cormorant **C**
- ○ Little Black Cormorant **C**
- ○ Pied Cormorant **C**
- ○ Australian Pelican **C**

Shorebirds
- ○ Bush Stone-curlew **R**
- ○ Australian Pied Oystercatcher **R**
- ○ Black-winged Stilt **C**
- ○ Pacific Golden Plover **U**
- ○ American Golden Plover **R**
- ○ Red-capped Plover **U**
- ○ Double-banded Plover **R**
- ○ Greater Sand Plover **R**
- ○ Black-fronted Dotterel **C**
- ○ Red-kneed Dotterel **C**
- ○ Masked Lapwing **C**
- ○ Comb-crested Jacana **C**
- ○ Latham's Snipe **C**
- ○ Australian Painted Snipe **R**
- ○ Bar-tailed Godwit **R**
- ○ Little Curlew **R**
- ○ Whimbrel **R**
- ○ Eastern Curlew **R**
- ○ Common Greenshank **R**
- ○ Marsh Sandpiper **U**
- ○ Wood Sandpiper **U**
- ○ Red-necked Stint **U**
- ○ Pectoral Sandpiper **U**
- ○ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper **C**
- ○ Curlew Sandpiper **U**
- ○ Western Sandpiper **R**

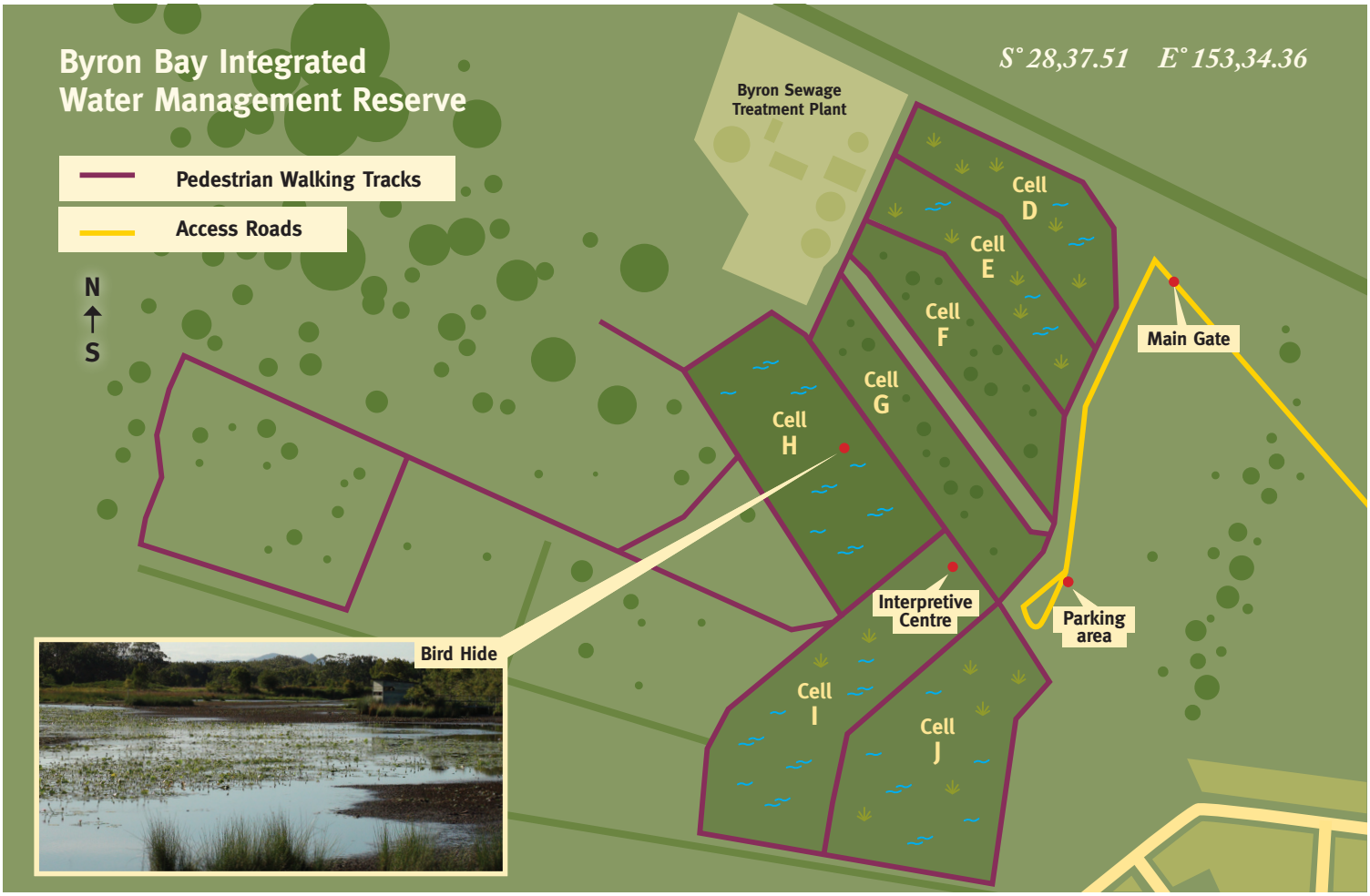
Ducks, Swans, Geese & Grebes
- ○ Magpie Goose **U**
- ○ Plumed Whistling-Duck **U**
- ○ Wandering Whistling-Duck **U**
- ○ Musk Duck **R**
- ○ Freckled Duck **U**
- ○ Black Swan **C**
- ○ Australian Wood Duck **U**
- ○ Pink-eared Duck **R**
- ○ Australasian Shoveler **U**
- ○ Grey Teal **C**
- ○ Chestnut Teal **U**
- ○ Northern Mallard **R**
- ○ Pacific Black Duck **C**
- ○ Pacific Black Duck - Hybrid **R**
- ○ Hardhead **C**
- ○ Australasian Grebe **C**
- ○ Hoary-headed Grebe **R**

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns
- ○ Australasian Bittern **U**
- ○ Australian Little Bittern **R**
- ○ Black Bittern **R**
- ○ White-necked Heron **C**
- ○ Eastern Great Egret **C**
- ○ Intermediate Egret **C**
- ○ Cattle Egret **C**
- ○ White-faced Heron **C**
- ○ Little Egret **C**
- ○ Nankeen Night-Heron **U**

Ibises & Spoonbills
- ○ Glossy Ibis **C**

Byron Bay Integrated Water Management Reserve

S° 28,37.51 E° 153,34.36



- ○ Australian White Ibis **C**
- ○ Straw-necked Ibis **C**
- ○ Royal Spoonbill **C**
- ○ Yellow-billed Spoonbill **U**

Storks & Brolgas

- ○ Black-necked Stork **C**
- ○ Brolga **R**

Crakes, Rails & Waterhens

- ○ Purple Swamphen **C**
- ○ Lewin's Rail **U**
- ○ Buff-banded Rail **C**
- ○ Baillon's Crake **U**
- ○ Australian Spotted Crake **U**
- ○ Spotless Crake **U**
- ○ White-browed Crake **R**
- ○ Pale-vented Bush-hen **R**
- ○ Black-tailed Native-hen **U**
- ○ Dusky Moorhen **C**
- ○ Eurasian Coot **C**

Mound Builders & Quails

- ○ Australian Brush-turkey **U**
- ○ Stubble Quail **R**
- ○ Brown Quail **U**
- ○ King Quail **R**

Kites, Hawks, Eagles & Falcons

- ○ Eastern Osprey **C**
- ○ Black-shouldered Kite **C**
- ○ Square-tailed Kite **R**
- ○ Pacific Baza **U**
- ○ White-bellied Sea Eagle **C**
- ○ Whistling Kite **C**
- ○ Brahminy Kite **C**
- ○ Black Kite **R**
- ○ Brown Goshawk **U**
- ○ Collared Sparrowhawk **U**
- ○ Grey Goshawk **U**
- ○ Spotted Harrier **R**
- ○ Swamp Harrier **C**
- ○ Wedge-tailed Eagle **U**
- ○ Little Eagle **U**
- ○ Nankeen Kestrel **R**
- ○ Brown Falcon **U**
- ○ Australian Hobby **U**
- ○ Black Falcon **R**
- ○ Peregrine Falcon **U**

Owls & Frogmouths

- ○ Tawny Frogmouth **U**
- ○ Southern Boobook **U**
- ○ Eastern Barn Owl **U**
- ○ Eastern Grass Owl **R**

Pigeons & Doves

- ○ Rock Dove **R**
- ○ White-headed Pigeon **C**
- ○ Spotted Dove **I, C**
- ○ Brown Cuckoo-Dove **C**
- ○ Emerald Dove **U**
- ○ Common Bronzewing **R**
- ○ Crested Pigeon **C**
- ○ Peaceful Dove **U**
- ○ Bar-shouldered Dove **C**
- ○ Wonga Pigeon **U**
- ○ Rose-crowned Fruit-dove **U**
- ○ Topknot Pigeon **U**

Cockatoos, Parrots & Lorikeets

- ○ Glossy Black Cockatoo **R**
- ○ Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo **U**
- ○ Galah **C**
- ○ Little Corella **C**
- ○ Long-billed Corella **U**
- ○ Sulphur-crested Cockatoo **C**
- ○ Cockatiel **R**
- ○ Rainbow Lorikeet **C**
- ○ Scaly-breasted Lorikeet **C**
- ○ Crimson Rosella **R**
- ○ Eastern Rosella **C**

Cuckoos

- ○ Pheasant Coucal **C**
- ○ Common Koel **C**
- ○ Channel-billed Cuckoo **C**
- ○ Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo **U**
- ○ Shining Bronze-Cuckoo **C**
- ○ Little Bronze-Cuckoo **U**
- ○ Pallid Cuckoo **R**
- ○ Fan-tailed Cuckoo **C**
- ○ Brush Cuckoo **C**

Kingfishers & Allies

- ○ Azure Kingfisher **C**
- ○ Laughing Kookaburra **C**
- ○ Forest Kingfisher **C**
- ○ Sacred Kingfisher **C**
- ○ Rainbow Bee-eater **C**
- ○ Dollarbird **C**

Swifts & Woodswallows

- ○ White-throated Needletail **C**
- ○ White-breasted Woodswallow **C**
- ○ Masked Woodswallow **R**
- ○ White-browed Woodswallow **R**

Swallows & Martins

- ○ Welcome Swallow **C**
- ○ Fairy Martin **C**
- ○ Tree Martin **C**

Fairy-wrens

- ○ Superb Fairy-wren **C**
- ○ Red-backed Fairy-wren **C**
- ○ Variegated Fairy-wren **C**

Scrubwrens, Thornbills & Pardalotes

- ○ White-browed Scrubwren **C**
- ○ Large-billed Scrubwren **U**
- ○ Brown Gerygone **R**
- ○ Mangrove Gerygone **U**
- ○ White-throated Gerygone **C**
- ○ Striated Thornbill **R**
- ○ Yellow-rumped Thornbill **R**
- ○ Yellow Thornbill **U**
- ○ Brown Thornbill **C**
- ○ Striated Pardalote **C**

Honeyeaters

- ○ Eastern Spinebill **C**
- ○ Lewin's Honeyeater **C**
- ○ Yellow-faced Honeyeater **C**
- ○ Noisy Miner **C**
- ○ Little Wattlebird **C**
- ○ Red Wattlebird **R**
- ○ Scarlet Honeyeater **C**
- ○ Brown Honeyeater **C**
- ○ White-cheeked Honeyeater **C**
- ○ Blue-faced Honeyeater **U**
- ○ Noisy Friarbird **C**
- ○ Little Friarbird **U**
- ○ Striped Honeyeater **C**

Whipbirds, Cuckoo-shrikes & Trillers

- ○ Eastern Whipbird **C**
- ○ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike **C**
- ○ White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike **U**
- ○ Cicadabird **U**
- ○ White-winged Triller **U**
- ○ Varied Triller **U**

Whistlers & Shrike-thrushes

- ○ Golden Whistler **C**
- ○ Rufous Whistler **C**
- ○ Little Shrike-thrush **U**
- ○ Grey Shrike-thrush **C**

Figbirds & Orioles

- ○ Australian Figbird **C**
- ○ Olive-backed Oriole **C**

Crows, Butcherbirds & Allies

- ○ Torresian Crow **C**
- ○ Grey Butcherbird **C**
- ○ Pied Butcherbird **C**
- ○ Australian Magpie **C**
- ○ Pied Currawong **C**
- ○ Spangled Drongo **C**

Fantails, Monarchs & Flycatchers

- ○ Willy Wagtail **C**
- ○ Rufous Fantail **R**
- ○ Grey Fantail **C**
- ○ Black-faced Monarch **U**
- ○ Spectacled Monarch **U**
- ○ Leaden Flycatcher **C**
- ○ Satin Flycatcher **R**
- ○ Restless Flycatcher **C**
- ○ Magpie-lark **C**

Robins

- ○ Red-capped Robin **R**
- ○ Rose Robin **R**
- ○ Eastern Yellow Robin **C**

Reed-warblers & Grassbirds

- ○ Golden-headed Cisticola **C**
- ○ Australian Reed-Warbler **C**
- ○ Little Grassbird **C**
- ○ Tawny Grassbird **C**
- ○ Rufous Songlark **R**

White-eyes & Flowerpeckers

- ○ Silvereye **C**
- ○ Mistletoebird **C**

Sparrows, Starlings & Mynas

- ○ House Sparrow **I, R**
- ○ Common Starling **I, R**
- ○ Common Myna **I, U**

Finches & Mannikins

- ○ Double-barred Finch **C**
- ○ Red-browed Finch **C**
- ○ Chestnut-breasted Mannikin **C**

Thrushes, Pipits & Wagtails

- ○ Russet-tailed Thrush **R**
- ○ Australian Pipit **U**
- ○ Eastern Yellow Wagtail **R**

New Species

- ○
- ○