



Common Bronzewing



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

operate in the area. The Opalton Town Dam (200m NW), its adjacent creek, riparian vegetation and Spinifex fields are worth inspection.

Notable birds: Australian Ringneck, Splendid Fairy-wren; Variegated Fairy-wren; Rufous-crowned Emu-wren; Hall's Babbler; Striated Grasswren.

Old Cork Homestead

The ruins of the homestead at Old Cork are part of Winton's Pioneer Trail, 126km south-west of Winton. It is a vintage sandstone homestead of one of the original properties in the Winton Shire. The property was settled in the 1870s and was the mail distribution point before Winton was established. It is situated on the eastern high bank at the confluence of Kells Creek and the Diamantina River.

Notable birds: Common Bronzewing; Australian Pelican; White-necked Heron; Spinifex Pigeon.

Further birdwatching opportunities:

Windermere Station
via Winton-Jundah Road
Phone: (07) 4657 0359

Carisbrooke Station
Cork Mail Road
Phone: (07) 4657 0084

Please contact the station owners for fees and accommodation availability – information available from the Winton Visitor Information Centre.

Contributing photographers:

George Baker, Chris Barnes, Ian Boyd, Chris Ezzy, Len Ezzy and Peter Valentine.

a birdwatchers' EXPERIENCE

So ... this one bird-filled morning, after just having spent a couple of hours birding at the Winton Sewage Ponds, and now later, en route to Bladensburg NP, we stopped at Long Waterhole for a birdwatchers' morning tea.

Immediately on arrival, we spotted two Black-tailed Native Hens feeding out in the open. They posed for extended photo shoots: as did also the massive numbers of Zebra Finches descending from prickly riparian shrubs, drinking and bathing at the water's edge. From atop an overhanging flood-light pole, a Brown Falcon perched, trying to work up an appetite while a big family of about 30 harassing Black-faced Woodswallows closely monitored its every move. Along the shore a bit we watched seven Red-kneed Dotterels and one Black-fronted Dotterel wading in the shallows. A White-necked Heron and a White-faced Heron stealthed the opposite bank, while an Australasian Grebe worked the middle. There were big flocks of Budgerigar and Cockatiel also coming in to drink. A couple of Common Bronzewing and a Pale-headed Rosella zeroed-in for a thirst-quencher.

As we looked away from the water, across the open treeless plains, there were big numbers of Galahs, three Australian Pratincoles and a small family of Spinifex Pigeon. A handful of Australian Bustards were flanking us, as they tried timidly to get closer to the water for a drink. They seemed hesitant by our presence; so we packed up the empty tea-cups and half-eaten "Lammies" and continued on our way to Bladensburg.

Len & Chris Ezzy
September 2008

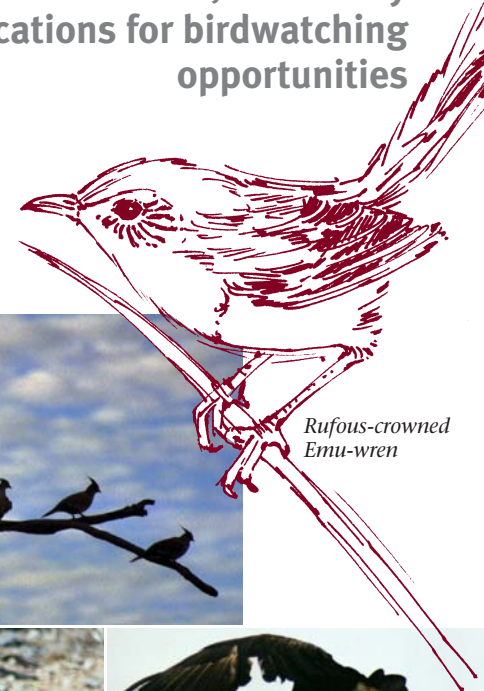
Key contact details

Winton Visitor Information Centre
Waltzing Matilda Centre
50 Elderslie Street, Winton Qld 4735
Toll Free: 1300 665 115
Facsimile: (07) 4657 1886
Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au
Website: www.experiencewinton.com.au

experience
WINTON

Birds of Winton Shire

Winton Shire is home to over 150 different species of birds, with many locations for birdwatching opportunities



Rufous-crowned Emu-wren



birdwatching LOCATIONS

Close to Winton Town

Long Waterhole

Long Waterhole is a man-made, permanent billabong, located on the Western River system just south of Winton Town. The turn off into Long Waterhole is approximately two kilometres from the town grid on the Winton-Jundah Road. It is a popular recreation spot for the locals, for swimming, and occasionally, fishing. Overnight camping (no facilities) is permitted.

Notable birds: *Spinifex Pigeon*; *Australian Bustard*; *Red-kneed Dotterel*; *Banded Lapwing*; *Australian Pratincole*.

Pelican Waterhole

Pelican Waterhole is the site of the first settlement of Winton. There are remnants of the old town, including an old baker's oven and broken glass on site. If you go exploring on the site, it is recommended that you wear closed, sturdy shoes. Further past the site of the old town is the Waterhole that it was named for.

Notable birds: *Brown Quail*; *Nankeen Night Heron*; *Variegated Fairy-wren*; *White-winged Triller*.



Hall's Babbler



Spinifexbird



Rufous-crowned Emu-wren

Other birds bird species commonly seen close to Winton town include: *Crested Pigeon*; *Budgerigar*; *Cockatiel*; *White-plumed Honeyeater*; and *Apostlebird*.

Bladensburg National Park

Formerly a grazing property, Bladensburg National Park conserves 85,000ha of Mitchell and Flinders Grass downs and Channel Country, Flat-topped mesas, plateaus and residual sandstone ranges provide a beautiful backdrop for birdwatching. The flat tops of mesas and plateaus support open woodlands of western Bloodwood and Mulga. The distinctive Mineritchie or Red Mulga – with its characteristic curly, red bark – lines some dry creek beds. Lancewood covers the steep slopes of sandstone ranges and escarpments, (Scrammy Gorge) while Spinifex and Normanton Box are found in the broad valleys. Bladensburg forms the south-eastern boundary of soft Spinifex's (*Triodia pungens*) range. Much of the park's northern half consists of vast cracking clay soils covered by Mitchell Grass and scattered with small areas of Gidgee woodlands.

It's worth taking your time in Bladensburg National Park; a wonderful place to explore in search of the more illusive bird species, such as the Rufous-crowned Emu-wren and Spinifexbird. Birdwatchers have seen flocks of Painted Finch come in for a drink at Skull Hole. Hordes of Honeyeater species visit flowering River Gum, riparian to Surprise Creek. Camping at Bough Shed Hole offers the opportunity to hear the calls of the Australian Owlet-nightjars, regularly seen nocturnally patrolling for insects rising from the water. Night spot-lighting slow-drive excursions can prove very productive – but watch out for the Kangaroos!

There is a tourist drive map available for the "Route of the River Gum", which is a loop drive from Winton with points of interest, largely in the National Park. Stop in at the old Bladensburg Homestead – now the Park Information Centre –

to pick up a Park map. Bladensburg NP has self-registration camping at Bough Shed Hole (fees apply). Please remember that National Park rules apply to your visit, including a ban on lighting any type of fire.

Notable birds: *Spinifex Pigeon*; *Spotted Harrier*; *Spotted Nightjar*; *Little Button-quail*; *Spotted Bowerbird*; *Crimson and Orange Chats*; *Hooded Robin*; *Inland Thornbill*; *Rufous-crowned Emu-wren*; *Spinifexbird*; *Painted Finch*.

Further Afield

Lark Quarry Conservation Park

The Conservation Park is home to the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument, usually known as Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways. It is known to be the world's only definitive record of a dinosaur stampede. Regular tours of the facility are conducted daily. Besides the Stampede, there are many birds to be seen, including such as the White-winged Fairy Wren which can be seen from the road. Please note camping is not allowed.

Notable birds: *White-winged Fairy Wren*; *Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater*.

Opalton

Some of Queensland's best Boulder Opal can be found in and around Opalton, Queensland's Capital of Boulder Opal. Opalton "Bush Park" offers a basic campground with cold showers and toilets, sheltered picnic tables and stone-built, thatched-roofed camping shelters, welcome refuges from the sometimes extreme heat and weather. It is a popular camping location, with modest fees and an honesty box. It makes an excellent base from which to



Red-kneed Dotterel

bird species list Listed according to Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds (Christidis and Boles – 2008).

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emu | <input type="checkbox"/> Straw-necked Ibis | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Striated Grasswren | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Shrike-thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Reed-Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stubble Quail | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Spoonbill | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-chested Button-quail | <input type="checkbox"/> Redthroat | <input type="checkbox"/> Crested Bellbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Tawny Grassbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Quail | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Spoonbill | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Button-quail | <input type="checkbox"/> Weebill | <input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Woodswallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Grassbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freckled Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-shouldered Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Pratincole | <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Thornbill | <input type="checkbox"/> Masked Woodswallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Songlark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Wood Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-breasted Buzzard | <input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern | <input type="checkbox"/> Striated Pardalote | <input type="checkbox"/> White-browed Woodswallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Songlark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pink-eared Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistling Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-browed Pardalote | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-faced Woodswallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Spinifexbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Teal | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Kite | <input type="checkbox"/> Galah | <input type="checkbox"/> Pied Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Dusky Woodswallow | <input type="checkbox"/> White-backed Swallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Black Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Goshawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Corella | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Woodswallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Swallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardhead | <input type="checkbox"/> Collared Sparrowhawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey-headed Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Butcherbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairy Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australasian Grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Harrier | <input type="checkbox"/> Cockatiel | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey-fronted Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Pied Butcherbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Martin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoary-headed Grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> Wedge-tailed Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Parrot | <input type="checkbox"/> White-plumed Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Magpie | <input type="checkbox"/> Mistletoebird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Bronzewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Pale-headed Rosella | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-faced Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Willie Wagtail | <input type="checkbox"/> Pictorella Mannikin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flock Bronzewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Nankeen Kestrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Ringneck | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Miner | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Raven | <input type="checkbox"/> Zebra Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crested Pigeon | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Budgerigar | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Crow | <input type="checkbox"/> Double-barred Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spinifex Pigeon | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Hobby | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant Coucal | <input type="checkbox"/> Crimson Chat | <input type="checkbox"/> Torresian Crow | <input type="checkbox"/> Plum-headed Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Channel-billed Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Chat | <input type="checkbox"/> Restless Flycatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Magpie-lark | <input type="checkbox"/> Australasian Pipit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tawny Frogmouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon | <input type="checkbox"/> Pallid Cuckoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Apostlebird | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Nightjar | <input type="checkbox"/> Brolga | <input type="checkbox"/> Barking Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> Noisy Friarbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacky Winter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Owllet-nightjar | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Swampphen | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Boobook | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Friarbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-capped Robin | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fork-tailed Swift | <input type="checkbox"/> Baillon's Crake | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Barn Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Robin | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australasian Darter | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Spotted Crake | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-backed Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Honeyeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Horsfield's Bushlark | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Pied Cormorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotless Crake | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Kingfisher | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey-crowned Babbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-headed Cisticola | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Black Cormorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-tailed Native-hen | <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Bee-eater | <input type="checkbox"/> Hall's Babbler | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pied Cormorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Dusky Moorhen | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Treecreeper | <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Pelican | <input type="checkbox"/> Eurasian Coot | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Bowerbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Varied Sittella | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-necked Stork | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Bustard | <input type="checkbox"/> Splendid Fairy-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cuckoo-shrike | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-necked Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Bush Stone-curlew | <input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Fairy-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Great Egret | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-winged Stilt | <input type="checkbox"/> Variegated Fairy-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Triller | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Egret | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-kneed Dotterel | <input type="checkbox"/> Rufous-crowned Emu-wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Whistler | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-faced Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Banded Lapwing | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Egret | <input type="checkbox"/> Masked Lapwing | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nankeen Night-Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Sandpiper | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian White Ibis | | | | | |



Australian Spotted Crake

This bird list was compiled from Queensland Parks and Wildlife "Wildlife Online" data, in collaboration with sightings recorded by members of the Townsville Region Bird Observers Club. Other birds may be seen that are not listed in this brochure.

A copy of your bird sighting/s with dates and contact details would be appreciated by the Winton Shire Council.

Please send to:
Winton Shire Council, PO Box 288, Winton, Qld 4735



Spinifex Pigeon



Hooded Robin



Striated Grasswren



Red-capped Robin



Banded Lapwing

Date: _____

Observer: _____

Location/s: _____

Unusual sightings / Notes: _____

