Cattana Wetlands Bird Checklist


LIST ANNOTATIONS

Abundance
C=Common - Likely to be recorded on most visits
U=Uncommon - Recorded regularly but not every visit
R=Rare - Recorded infrequently
OR=Out of Range - Does not usually occur in this area

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
Vag=Vagrant

The Abundance (C/U/R) annotations 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, within the area described in this list.

The Seasonal Status annotations give a guide as how much time a species might spend in this area. Thus Resident species are believed to occur at least somewhere within the area all year round. Seasonal Visitors include migrants from within Australia, wandering nomadic species which move to the area when local conditions are suitable and also waterbirds such as ducks and egrets which may move out of the area to breed when conditions inland are suitable.
The Cattana Wetlands are situated about 15km North of Cairns, accessed from Dunne Road near Smithfield. The wetlands are well signposted from the main highway passing through Smithfield. The purpose of this list is to indicate to visitors the chances of seeing various bird species during their visit.

The wetlands comprise about 80 hectares and include a series of lagoons, swamps, grasslands and rare Feather Palm forest. It is a man shaped area, created from degraded sand & gravel pits and sugar cane farm land. It was restored by the Cairns City Council. The restoration works are ongoing with over 10,000 trees planted. With respect to birdlife, this area will only improve with time. There are a series of walking tracks, picnic areas and bird hides overlooking the lagoons. There is also an elevated boardwalk through the palm forest enabling visitors to admire rainforest bird species in comfort.

The wetlands are open 05.30 – 19.00 every day of the year.

Notable bird species include the Black-necked Stork which nests here and is seen regularly. With luck, Lovely Fairy-wrens can be seen on the edges of the rainforest. White-browed Crakes are on the edges of the lagoons and Crimson Finches in both grassland and reedy areas.

The occurrence of waterbirds is variable with many species dispersing inland to breed in the wet season but returning in winter. Thus waterbirds might be abundant or completely absent.

It is also recommended to visit the nearby Yorkey’s Knob Golf Course Lagoon. See Bird checklist No 8

Names and taxonomic order used for the bird list follow Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds by L Christidis & W E Boles (CSIRO, Melbourne, 2008)

New or unusual sightings? Register with Eremaea Birds www.eremaea.com

For more information see also: http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/facilities-and-recreation/parks/cattana-wetlands

http://www.nqit.net/cattana/

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