



birdlife
Northern
Queensland

Top
3
spots

Atherton Tablelands

Farmland | Rainforest | Savannah | Woodlands

Welcome to the highlands. The Atherton Tablelands is a diverse region between 500 and 1,500m above sea level (ASL). Crystal clear streams and waterfalls lace the rainforest covered mountains that dominate the landscape. In places tall wet sclerophyll forests border rainforest. In between, lush rolling farm and grazing lands are interspersed with wetlands, remnant vegetation, and small towns.

North and west, the landscape is drier, often with eucalypt woodlands covering gentler hills and valleys. A dramatic escarpment arises at Ngarrabullgan (or Mount Mulligan, the birthplace of the Rainbow Serpent) while the Chillagoe region features complex limestone outcrops and caves.

Over 300 species of birds have been recorded in the region including New Guinea migrants. The abundance of species, diversity of habitats and ease of access makes this area a 'must visit' locale for bird enthusiasts. At Hastie's Swamp National Park near Atherton, it is possible to see 220 species, rainforest walks may reveal Golden Bowerbirds and Cassowaries, and the eucalypt woodlands, Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, and Crested Shrike-tit.

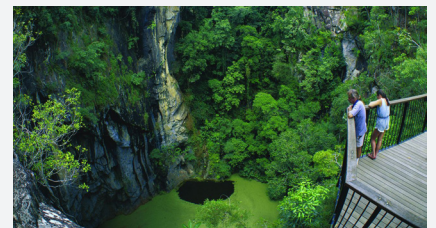
The Tablelands region is the centre of possum and glider species diversity and is the home of Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo. Another attraction is the temperature, it is often the coolest place to be in tropical North Queensland.

When to go

The Tablelands has great birding at any time of the year. Winter days are often clear and crisp with morning fog and possibly frost. Summer, the wet season, is usually cooler and less humid than on the coast.

Getting there

Interstate and overseas visitors usually fly into Cairns International or Domestic Airport and drive to the Tablelands via one of four main access roads, known locally as the Kuranda, Gillie's, Palmerston, or Rex Ranges. The Tableland's quiet roads are excellent for leisurely touring by car. A number of track and road networks have been mapped for cyclists.



Mount Hypipamee National Park

Upland forest at 1,000m ASL with high bird and mammal species diversity and a deep crater lake



Hastie's Swamp National Park

A refuge for resident and migratory wetland species with a viewing hide



Mount Lewis National Park

A 1,210m ASL winding mountain road provides opportunities to see most of the 13 endemic Wet Tropics bird species

Spot these locals when you visit

Community

The Tablelands has many conservation groups and programs including Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT), the Barron River Catchment Association, Tablelands Wildlife Rescue, Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group, and Tolga Bat Hospital.

Conservation

All the listed community groups welcome new members and volunteers so contact them if you are interested.

BirdLife Northern Queensland has a monthly morning bird walk at Hastie's Swamp. Check our events calendar at birdlifennq.org/events to find out more.

Make your birding count by doing a bird survey in the Atherton Tablelands Key Biodiversity Area and entering it into Birddata. Every time you share your bird surveys, our collective knowledge of birds grows. For more information visit birddata.birdlife.org.au. Find out more about Key Biodiversity Areas by visiting keybiodiversityareas.org.

Get involved!

Visit birdlifennq.org to find out more about what we do and subscribe to our newsletter to get notified about our events.



Australian King Parrot (Wet Tropics subspecies)



Bower's Shrike-thrush



Bridled Honeyeater



Brolga



Chowchilla



Cryptic (Graceful) Honeyeater



Grey-headed Robin



Lesser Sooty Owl



Macleay's Honeyeater



Mountain Thornbill



Pied Monarch



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo



Sarus Crane



Satin Bowerbird (Wet Tropics subspecies)



Spotted Catbird



Victoria's Riflebird



Atherton Scrubwren



Fernwren



Blue-faced Parrot-Finch



Golden Bowerbird



Tooth-billed Bowerbird

