

OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

ARID | SAVANNAH | WOODLANDS | GRASSLAND

The Outback birding region extends inland from the Great Dividing Range through to the Northern Territory border. Mitchell and Golden Beard Grass plains dominate, interspersed with areas of eucalypt and acacia woodland, and spinifex tussock grassland. The area extends southwest to Winton, a jumping off point for Bladensburg National Park, Opalton and the Diamantina with outstanding birding opportunities.

The Outback provides opportunities for seeing large flocks of corellas, galahs, budgerigars and emus, especially where there is water. Good rains and the subsequent vegetation growth promote eruptions in Long-haired Rat numbers, attracting Letter-winged Kites, that form loose breeding colonies before dispersing. The exceptionally rare Night Parrot has been recorded in this region.

There are a number of National Parks with features that contrast with the open landscape. Best known is Porcupine Gorge National Park near Hughenden with a cool, clear, flowing creek, cliffs of vibrantly coloured sandstone and dense vegetation. The road west is also part of the Australian Dinosaur Trail that includes important sites around Hughenden and Richmond.

The climate of the region is arid in the west and semi-dry tropical in the eastern areas. The low rainfall makes this region quite distinct from other northern Queensland birding regions. Extremes of drought and floods occur and visitors should monitor local conditions before and during travel and be well prepared.

WHEN TO GO

This region is best visited in the cooler months as summer day temperatures can reach the mid-40s. Vehicles perform better and camping is more comfortable in the cooler months. Night-time temperatures in the cooler months may drop below 0°C.

GETTING THERE

Road access from the east is via either Charters Towers and White Mountains National Park, or Ravenshoe and Blackbraes National Park and Porcupine Gorge National Park. It is ideal to have a four-wheel drive vehicle to allow travel off the sealed highway.



**Emu Swamp Dam,
Blackbraes National Park**
Extensive wetlands in a diverse woodland estate



**Porcupine Gorge
National Park**
Varied and scenic landscape and diverse flora and fauna



Bladensburg National Park
A great place to look for species that specialise in spinifex habitats

SPOT THESE LOCALS WHEN YOU VISIT

COMMUNITY

This is a sparsely populated region. The main towns are Julia Creek - approximately 500 people, Hughenden - 1100, Winton - 900 and Richmond - 650. The distances between towns are large and travel times considerable. Extensive cattle stations cover much of the country. Unfenced roads and high kangaroo populations call for caution if driving at night.

CONSERVATION

The data for this area is sparse. Records of nocturnal species, especially away from main roads, are particularly valuable. Make your birding count by doing a bird survey in the Staaten River or Morehead River Key Biodiversity Areas 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.

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Apostlebird



Australian Pratincole



Black-breasted Buzzard



Budgerigar



Ground Cuckoo-shrike



Letter-winged Kite



Little Corella



Pink-eared Duck



Red-winged Parrot



Spotted Bowerbird



Spotted Harrier



Torresian Crow



Yellow-throated Miner



White-winged Fairywren



Zebra Finch



Grey Falcon



Cockatiel



Emu



Spinifex Pigeon



Wedge-tailed Eagle



Red-capped Robin

Top
5
locals