

Birds to keep an eye out for in Tenterfield and surrounding areas

DUCKS, SWANS & GREBES

Australasian Grebe
Australasian Shoveler
Australian Wood Duck
Black Swan
Grey Teal
Hardhead
Pacific Black Duck
Pink-eared Duck



CORMORANTS, DARTERS & PELICAN

Australasian Darter
Australian Pelican
Great Cormorant
Great Pied cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Little Pied Cormorant

HERONS & EGRETS

Cattle Egret
Eastern Great Egret
Intermediate Egret
Nankeen Night-Heron
White-faced Heron
White-necked Heron

IBIS & SPOONBILLS

Australian White Ibis
Royal Spoonbill
Straw-necked Ibis
Yellow-billed Spoonbill

WATERHENS AND RAILS

Buff-banded Rail
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Pale-vented Bush-hen
Purple Swampphen

OTHER WATERBIRDS

Banded Lapwing
Black-fronted Dotterel
Latham's Snipe
Masked Lapwing
Pied Stilt

PINK-EARED DUCK



KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES & FALCONS

Australian Hobby
Black Falcon
Black Kite
Black-shouldered Kite
Brown Falcon
Brown Goshawk
Collared Sparrowhawk
Grey Goshawk
Little Eagle
Nankeen Kestrel
Pacific Baza
Peregrine Falcon
Spotted Harrier
Square-tailed Kite
Swamp Harrier
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Whistling Kite
White-bellied Sea-Eagle

OWLS, FROGMOUTHS & NIGHTJARS

Australian Owlet-nightjar
Barking Owl
Eastern Barn Owl
Masked Owl
Powerful Owl
Sooty Owl
Southern Boobook
Tawny Frogmouth
White-throated Nightjar

PIGEONS & DOVES

Bar-shouldered Dove
Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Common Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon
Emerald Dove
Peaceful Dove
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
Superb Fruit-Dove
Topknot Pigeon
White-headed Pigeon
Wompoo Fruit-Dove
Wonga Pigeon

COCKATOOS, PARROTS & LORIKEETS

Australian King-Parrot
Crimson Rosella
Double-eyed Fig-Parrot
Eastern Rosella
Galah
Glossy Black-Cockatoo
Little Corella
Little Lorieet
Musk Lorieet
Pale-headed Rosella

Rainbow Lorikeet
Red-rumped Parrot
Red-winged Parrot
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Swift Parrot
Turquoise Parrot
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo



CUCKOOS

Brush Cuckoo
Channel-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Koel
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Little Bronze-Cuckoo
Pallid Cuckoo
Pheasant Coucal
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

GROUND & NEAR GROUND BIRDS

Albert's Lyrebird
Apostlebird
Australian Brush-turkey
Australian Pipit
Bassian Thrush
Brown Quail
Eastern Whipbird
Logrunner
Noisy Pitta
Painted Button-quail
Russet-tailed Thrush
Spotted Quail-thrush
Superb Lyrebird
White-winged Chough

SWIFTS & WOODSWALLOWS

Black-faced Woodswallow
Dusky Woodswallow
Masked Woodswallow
White-breasted Woodswallow
White-browed Woodswallow
White-throated Needletail

SWALLOWS & MARTINS

Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Welcome Swallow
White-backed Swallow

KINGFISHERS, BEE-EATERS & ROLLERS

Azure Kingfisher
Forest Kingfisher
Laughing Kookaburra
Oriental Dollarbird
Rainbow Bee-eater
Sacred Kingfisher

TREECREEPERS, WARBLERS & BABBLERS

Brown Treecreeper
Grey-crowned Babbler
Red-browed Treecreeper
Speckled Warbler
White-browed Babbler
White-throated Treecreeper

FAIRY-WRENS & SCRUB-WRENS

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren
Large-billed Scrubwren
Red-backed Fairy-wren
Southern Emu-wren
Superb Fairy-wren
Variegated Fairy-wren
White-browed Scrubwren
Yellow-throated Scrubwren

PARDALOTES, GERYGONES & THORNBILLS

Brown Gerygone
Brown Thornbill
Buff-rumped Thornbill
Mistletoebird
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Striated Thornbill
Weebill
White-throated Gerygone
Yellow Thornbill
Yellow-rumped Thornbill

HONEYEATERS

Bell Miner
Black-chinned Honeyeater
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Eastern Spinebill
Fuscous Honeyeater
Lewin's Honeyeater
Little Friarbird

Little Wattlebird
New Holland Honeyeater
Noisy Friarbird
Noisy Miner
Red Wattlebird
Regent Honeyeater
Scarlet Honeyeater
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Striped Honeyeater
White-cheeked Honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater
White-throated Honeyeater
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

ROBINS

Eastern Yellow Robin
Flame Robin
Hooded Robin
Jacky Winter
Pale-yellow Robin
Rose Robin
Scarlet Robin

SHRIKE-TITS & WHISTLERS

Crested Shrike-tit
Golden Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush
Little Shrike-thrush
Rufous Whistler

FLYCATCHERS

Leaden Flycatcher
Restless Flycatcher
Satin Flycatcher

FANTAILS & WHITE-EYES

Grey Fantail
Rufous Fantail
Silvereye
Willie Wagtail

ORIOLE & FIGBIRD

Australasian Figbird
Olive-backed Oriole

EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN



SITELLAS, CUCKOO-SHRIKES & TRILLERS

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Cicadabird
Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Varied Sittella
Varied Triller
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Triller

CROWS, BUTCHERBIRDS & ALLIES

Australian Magpie
Australian Raven
Forest Raven
Grey Butcherbird
Little Crow
Magpie-lark
Pied Butcherbird
Pied Currawong
Torresian Crow

FINCHES & MANNIKINS

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Diamond Firetail
Double-barred Finch
Plum-headed Finch
Red-browed Finch

REEDWARBLERS, GRASSBIRDS & SONGLARKS

Australian Reed-Warbler
Brown Songlark
Little Grassbird
Rufous Songlark
Tawny Grassbird

CATBIRDS, BOWERBIRDS AND RIFLEBIRDS

Green Catbird
Paradise Riflebird
Regent Bowerbird
Satin Bowerbird

MONARCHS AND DRONGO

Black-faced Monarch
Spangled Drongo
Spectacled Monarch

INTRODUCED SPECIES

Common Blackbird
Common Myna
Common Starling
House Sparrow
Rock Dove
Spotted Turtle-Dove

Tenterfield

The beautiful and diverse Shire of Tenterfield is a haven for birdlife. More than 230 species of native birds have been recorded. The Shire straddles the Great Dividing Range with elevations ranging from 115m on the Clarence River to 1491m atop Big Mount Spirabo, creating many different habitats. Much of the Shire is natural bushland with many National Parks to visit. Wild flowers are plentiful, especially in Spring.

Travel north-east to the Tooloom or Koreelah National Parks (*part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area*) to enjoy birds in the subtropical forests, or south to experience cool wet sclerophyll eucalypt forests and temperate rainforests.

Explore the high elevation National Parks of Bald Rock, Boonoo Boonoo and Basket Swamp with their spectacular granite outcrops and waterfalls, or visit Torrington in the west, with its differing rainfall patterns, geology and vegetation, to witness a different range of birds.

Descend to the drier western valleys of the Mole River area to discover birds of the ironbark and cypress country, or meander east down the escarpment towards Drake for birds of rainforest creeks and canopies.

So, explore and enjoy this wonderful environment!



Clockwise from the top: Brown Falcon, Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-browed Finch and Rainbow Bee-eater

Cover photo: Dean Ingwersen. All other bird photos: Neil Fordyce.



Clockwise from the top: Scarlet Robin (m). White-eared Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (f)

The Regent Honeyeater (cover photo) is critically endangered in Australia. All sightings are important.

It is most commonly associated with box-ironbark eucalypt woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and also inhabits riparian vegetation. Principally a canopy bird, it is reliant on select species of eucalypt and mistletoe which provide rich nectar flows. Rapid declines have been observed in recent decades, thought to be mainly due to the clearing, fragmentation and degradation of its habitat.

Report a sighting of a Regent Honeyeater to Birdlife Australia on 1800 621 056

Contact us

This brochure has been produced in cooperation with Granite Borders Landcare, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and National Landcare Program.

For information about birding activities or groups active in the area email:

GRANITE BORDERS LANDCARE INC
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TENTERFIELD NATURALISTS INC
tenterfieldnats.secretary@gmail.com

BIRDLIFE NORTHERN NSW BRANCH
northernnsw@birdlife.org.au



If you have found a sick, injured or orphaned native animal
Call WIRES New England 1300 094 737

Bird watching

IN AND AROUND TENTERFIELD



This project is supported by Northern Tablelands Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Locations for bird watching



All Distances are from Tenterfield Visitor Centre, Rouse Street.

It is suggested you check with NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. Phone: 02 6736 4301 or Tenterfield Visitor Centre, 157 Rouse Street. Phone: 02 6736 1082 on condition/status of gravel roads before travelling. Some roads may only be suitable for 4WD vehicles.

Please note that drought and bushfires during 2019 have affected many of these areas.

DRIVES

NEAR TOWN

1. Kildare Loop Tourist Drive

(includes gravel roads approx. 38km)
Travelling north from the Visitor Centre, turn left into Molesworth Street. Travel on Sunnyside Loop Road following the signs, and after approximately 8km turn left into Kildare Road. The road passes through farmland and past granite tors where Nankeen Kestrels and Wedge-tailed Eagles may be sighted. Follow this to Gum Flat Road, then turn right to Mount Mackenzie Lookout and Reserve (follow the signs). Although there are no trails within the reserve you can walk along the road through the cool forest and may spot Superb Lyrebird, Wonga Pigeon or Bassian Thrush. Backtrack to Mount Mackenzie road and turn right (east) to travel back to town.

NORTH OF TOWN

2. Cross-Border Trip

(includes gravel roads approx. 45km return)
Travel north on the New England Highway for 13.9km then, just before summit of hill, turn right onto Brushabers Road. Follow the road for 7.2km through open farmland and woodland keeping an eye out for Little Eagle above and Buff-banded Rail where the road crosses creeks. Follow the road into Wallangarra/Jennings, but before you reach highway turn right onto Duke Street then left onto Woodlawn St which becomes Bald Mountain Road. The railway will be on your left. 2.1km from the turn off are the Wallangarra Sewage ponds which can be viewed easily from the road. Australian Grebe, Australasian Shoveler, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Grey Teal, Australian Wood Duck and Pacific Black Duck are regulars here. Return along the highway.

3. Timbarra Plateau

(includes gravel roads approx. 70km return. No through road)

From Tenterfield, drive east along the Bruxner highway for 11km then turn right on to Timbarra Road. Drive east through farmland and woodland enjoying the fantastic view of the valley and escarpment on your right for about 13km. At this point the road turns south following the edge of the plateau and into denser, wet sclerophyll forest.

4. Spirabo Forest Way Loop

(includes gravel roads approx. 80km)
This drive will take you through open farm land, dry and wet sclerophyll forest and patches of rainforest. Travel south from Visitor Centre and just before leaving the town limits turn left on to Clifton Street and then turn right (south) on to Scrub Road. Pass Tenterfield Dam on your right. Follow Scrub Road for 16.3km to the edge of the forest then follow Spirabo Forest Way through the Forest Land State Forest. Continue south for 23km along Spirabo Forest Way. Turn right onto Mount Spirabo Road and travel 8.3km, turn right onto Sandy Flat Road for 9.3km to return to New England Highway then turn right (north) to return to Tenterfield (20.9km).



Grey Teal, Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Grebe

NATIONAL PARKS, NATURE RESERVES, CONSERVATION AREAS AND STOCK RESERVES

NEAR TOWN

1. Currys Gap SCA (4km)

Head south on Rouse St. After 250m turn right on Douglas St. After 1.5km, at cemetery, turn left on Western St and then immediately right on Mt MacKenzie Rd. After 2.1km you will see the gate at the entrance of the reserve. A loop walking track (approx 3.5km) meanders through the open forest where White-winged Choughs, Speckled Warblers, robins and honeyeaters can be seen.

NORTH OF SHIRE

2. Tooloom National Park (113km) and Koreelah National Park (128km) (includes gravel roads).

Tooloom: Travel north on Mt Lindesay Rd for 107km. Turn right on Tooloom Rd. Travel south on Tooloom Rd for 5.9km.
Koreelah: Travel north on Mt Lindesay Rd for 115km. Turn left onto White Swamp Rd and follow for 12.4km.
In the north of the shire, these two parks offer the chance to encounter birds that live in rainforest habitats such as the Green Catbird, Eastern Whipbird, Rainbow Pitta, Logrunner or Fruit-Doves. In Tooloom National Park a 1km track loops through the rainforest but it is also worth exploring Tucker Box Road and Tooloom Plantation Forest Road for a chance to see Red-browed Treecreepers and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens. When driving through to Urbenville keep your windows open to enjoy the sounds of the rainforest birds. In Koreelah National Park take a wander through sclerophyll forest in to the gorge and if staying overnight listen out for Southern Boobook and Sooty Owl.

3. Bald Rock National Park (33.8km) (includes gravel roads).

Travel north up Mt Lindesay Rd for 26.4km. Turn left on to Bald Rock Access Rd and follow signs to park. The thicker forest around the base of this giant granite rock is favoured by Superb Lyrebird, Satin Bowerbird, Golden Whistler, Rufous Fantail and Eastern Whipbird. The Bungoona walking track ascends through the wet sclerophyll forest, passing fern and orchid-covered boulders. After passing through stunted forest and heath you emerge on top of the mountain, a great spot to watch birds of prey soaring on the thermals. In spring look for honeyeaters visiting the flowering heath plants.

4. Boonoo Boonoo National Park (38.9km) (includes gravel roads).

Travel north up Mt Lindesay Rd for 22.8km. Turn right onto Falls Rd and follow signs to park. If you listen carefully as you walk alongside the Boonoo Boonoo river, between the falls and Cypress-pine campground, you may hear the Glossy Black-Cockatoos crunching the cones of the she-oaks. Look for the 'orts' (chewed cones) on the paths. At the falls, you might be lucky enough to see a Peregrine Falcon.

5. Basket Swamp Area (approx 25km to Basket Swamp picnic area; 35km to Woolool Wooloolni) (includes gravel roads).

Travel north up Mt Lindesay Rd for 15.9km. Turn right onto

Lindrook Rd. After 4.1km turn right onto Woolool Wooloolni Rd. After 2km turn left on Basket Swamp Rd and travel a further 2.8km to the crossing with Basket Swamp Creek. The Day Use area, amongst the trees and adjacent to the heath, is a good place for finding robins, whistlers, honeyeaters and treecreepers. Backtrack to Woolool Wooloolni Rd then turn left. After 3km turn left on Wellington Rock Trail. Follow this road for 3.5km to picnic shelter below Woolool Wooloolni rock where you may see Spotted Quail-thrush and Superb Lyrebirds.

EAST OF SHIRE

6. Girard State Forest (44.5km)

The Crooked Creek Rest Area, east of Tenterfield on the Bruxner Highway, amongst the tall trees of the Girard State Forest, offers a pleasant area to stop on your journey to or from Tenterfield. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Rufous Fantail, Crimson Rosella, Bell Miner and Lewin's, Yellow-tufted and Scarlet Honeyeaters may be seen.

SOUTH OF SHIRE

7. Torrington SCA (66.6km) (includes gravel roads)

Three walking tracks through open forest and heath (with a fabulous spring wildflower display) offer the chance to see birds from slightly drier habitats. Travel south on New England Hwy for 38.1km then turn right on Castlerag Rd for 8.2km. Turn right on Torrington Rd and stay on this road, bearing left at Stannum, for 19.4km to Torrington village.

For Mystery Face track: In Torrington, turn right on to Silent Grove Rd and continue for 2.5km. Turn left on Butlers Rd for 3.9km then bear left on Mystery Face Rd for 650m to the start of the loop walking track.

For Ugly Corner Falls Track: In Torrington, turn right on to Silent Grove Rd and continue for 10.3km. Turn right on to Blatherarm Creek Rd and continue for 500m to start of walking track.

8. Bolivia Hill NR (34.9km).

Travel south on New England Hwy for 34.5km. About 400m past the top of the Bolivia Hill cutting turn left into the lay-by. Just before the toilet, on the left, a firetrack (walking track) leads up the hill. After about 200m you will see the old railway line, a gate and a sign for Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve. The firetracks make an 11km loop around Bolivia Hill through diverse vegetation communities including grassy woodland, open forest and healthy shrub-land. (*The trail system is shown on Google maps*).

WEST OF SHIRE

9. Deadmans Stock Reserve (25km)

Head north on Rouse St/New England Highway. At 5.5km turn left on Bruxner Highway and continue for 19.6km then turn right onto Sawyers Gully road. A short walk down the road, which has unfenced stock reserve on both sides, to Tenterfield Creek is surprisingly rewarding. Diamond Firetails, Double-barred, Red-browed and Plum-headed Finches may be seen and the large pool in the creek attracts ducks, grebes, cormorants, darters and spoonbills.

AROUND TENTERFIELD TOWN

1. Tenterfield Dam, Scrub Road (1.8km)

Travel south on Rouse St for 700m then turn left on Derby St. Turn right on Scrub Road and follow to dam. This is the biggest waterbody in the shire and often hosts the larger waterbirds such as pelicans, cormorants and swans as well as ducks and coots. When the water-level is low Pied Stilt and Black-fronted Dotterel may be seen along the shore. There is a picnic shelter and seats at the north-east end of the reservoir.

2. Tenterfield Creek Pathway (1.3km)

An easy flat path follows the creek from Rotary Park, at the north end of Rouse St, upstream to Manners St, a distance of about 1.5km. You might see a heron searching for frogs or the Azure Kingfisher quietly sitting above a pool. Where the cumbungi is thick you can hear the loud call of the Australian Reed-Warbler. The larger trees at the edges of the parks on High St are favoured roosts at various times of year for Little Corellas and Musk Lorikeets.

3. Tenterfield Park, Derby St., Tenterfield (1.1km)

Travel south on Rouse St. for 700m then turn left on Derby St. Cross Bulwer St and park is on your right. A mown path loops round the grassy woodland in the lower park. In the upper park small ponds, and plantings providing denser cover, attract thornbills, fairy-wrens and honeyeaters.

