Balonne Shire Birding

Over 240 species of bird have been recorded in Balonne Shire – some are very rare visitors but nonetheless you will be able to see a diverse range of spectacular birds. The Shire is home to important populations of birds which are threatened at the state and/or national scale including Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Painted Honeyeater and Australian Painted Snipe.

Although there are numerous good birdwatching sites in the Shire, this brochure provides a summary of 13 of the best publicly accessible birdwatching sites.

Tips while birdwatching in Balonne Shire

Temperatures in the shire are highly variable. Summer can be very hot and winter nights can be subzero. The most pleasant weather is in Autumn and Spring which coincides with good birdwatching. Although many birdwatching spots are easily accessed via bitumen roads and are close to towns. others such as national parks, are a little off the beaten track. If visiting these locations always be prepared with plenty of fuel and water. Mobile phone and internet coverage is not available in all parts of the Shire. Although most rain falls between November and March, it can rain at any time of the year. Check weather and road conditions before venturing off the bitumen. Dirt roads and tracks may be boggy or slippery even after a little rain.

Be sure to visit the towns in the Shire for an overnight stay, stock up on supplies or stop for a snack. All of the information centres are attended by staff who will be more than willing to provide up-to-date information. Comprehensive information relating to the Shire including town maps can be sourced online at www.balonne.qld.gov.au.

Please do not enter private property without permission.

The Balonne Shire's name is derived from an Aboriginal word meaning Pelican

Before You Go Birdwatching Please Check:

- Recent weather and current road conditions
 - You have let someone know where you are going
 - Amenities: many of the birdwatching sites listed below have no or few facilities – you may need to be fully self-contained
- Park Alerts for National Park access information
 www.parks.des.qld.gov.au. Check particularly if there has been rain, floods or fires.

Additional birding information is available for download via your mobile App Store:

eBird eE

Tawny Frogmouth

Double-barred Fi

Wedge-tailed Eagle

eBird Birds

Birds of Australia



Australian Birds and Sounds



For more visitor information contact one of the locations listed below:

BALONNE SHIRE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

114 St George's Terrace, St George Qld 4487 07 4620 8877 vic@balonne.qld.gov.au

BOLLON HERITAGE CENTRE

Main Street, Bollon Qld 4488 07 4625 6108

DIRRANBANDI RURAL TRANSACTION CENTRE

35-37 Railway Street, Dirranbandi Qld 4486 07 4625 8411

HEBEL GENERAL STORE & CARAVAN PARK

William Street, Hebel Qld 4487 07 4625 0920

FRANCIS HOTEL

16 Pine Street, Thallon Qld 4497 07 4625 9188

MUNGINDI RURAL TRANSACTION CENTRE

Moree Plains Shire Council - Mungindi Office 153 St George Street, Mungindi NSW 2406 02 6753 2389

Birds of the Balonne

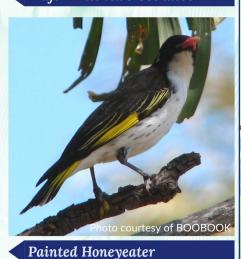


Your compact guide to the birds and birdwatching hotspots of the Balonne Shire, Qld.





Major Mitchell's Cockatoo





Brown Treecreeper





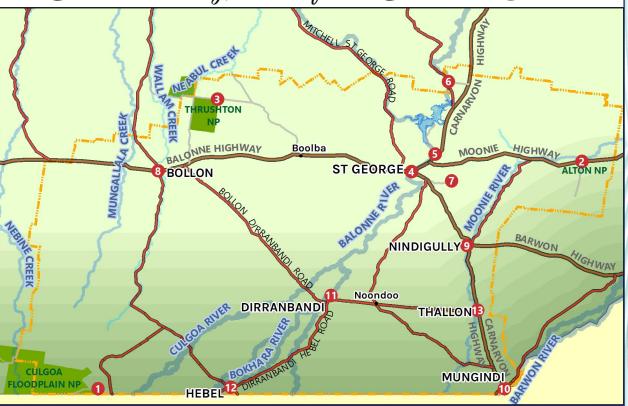


Mallee Ringneck



Hooded Robin

Birdwatching sites of the Balonne Shire









Spotted Bowerbird



Red-capped Robin



Red-winged Parrot



Splendid Fairy-wren



Mulga Parrot

1. CULGOA FLOODPLAIN NATIONAL PARK

28°58'33"S, 147°13'13"E (Byra Road entrance)

- Over 180 species of bird have been recorded and due to the diversity of habitats (coolabah, black box, brigalow, gidgee, mulga, claypans) it is one of the premier birdwatching sites in the Shire. The Park provides important habitat for threatened species such as Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and Painted Honeyeater. Parrots are a notable feature - Blue Bonnet, Mulga Parrot, Red-rumped Parrot, Budgerigar, Australian Ringneck and Red-winged Parrot are all common while Blue-winged Parrots occasionally visit in winter. A great spot to see White-winged Fairy-wren, Red-backed Kingfisher, Crested Bellbird. Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Black-tailed Native-hen, Southern Whiteface, Little Button-guail, Crimson Chat, Diamond Firetail (occasional) and all six species of woodswallow.
- May be temporarily inaccessible following flooding of the Culgoa River and Nebine and Mungallala Creeks. Byra Lagoon (near the ranger base) often retains water for many months and is a good spot to camp. A good range of birds will be seen in the surrounding woodland with occasional Crested Shrike-tit and Spotted Pardalotes. Tego Springs and former stock dams also provide reliable watering points for birds. 4WD is recommended.

2. ALTON NATIONAL PARK

27°59'23"S. 149°19'12"E (Fairymount Road intersection)

- A relatively small Park (558 ha) but supports a diversity of habitats with over 100 spp. of birds recorded. Great for wildflowers midwinter to spring. Best access is via the Fairymount Rd - park & walk from various sites along this road.
- Good for woodland birds: Bar-shouldered Dove, Superb and Variegated Fairy-wren, Speckled Warbler, Weebill, Striated Pardalote, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Apostlebird, White-winged Chough, Pied Currawong, Silvereve, Red-capped Robin & Doublebarred Finch
- One of the few places in the Shire to see easterly birds like Yellowfaced Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, Cicadabird & White-eared Honeyeater.

3. THRUSHTON NATIONAL PARK

27°43'10"S, 147°44'18"E (Rutherglen Road entrance)

• Over 140 species of birds have been recorded. Areas of Mulga around the camping areas have Mulga Parrot, Brown and Whitethroated Treecreeper, Splendid Fairy-wren, Painted Button-quail, Hooded and Red-capped Robin. Look for honeyeaters in the spinifex patches at the Park entrance particularly when the Grevilleas are in flower (Sept - Nov). Try Neabul Creek in the northern section of the Park for Square-tailed Kite and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. 4WD is recommended.

4. ST GEORGE - BALONNE RIVER

28°02'03"S, 148°34'50"E (opposite Henry Street)

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• The Balonne River frontage adjoining the northwestern side of St George has many pleasant spots to picnic and enjoy birdwatching. Easy access can be gained from St George's Terrace from Church St in the north to Bowen St in the south.

- There may be long stretches of relatively deep water through to shallower 9. NINDIGULLY MOONIE RIVER areas during drier times with exposed mud banks and fringing reed beds. Waterbird numbers fluctuate according to water levels and season.
- The River is fringed by eucalypts supporting White-plumed Honeyeater, Red-winged Parrot and Blue-faced Honeveater, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Masked Lapwing and Red-rumped Parrot can be seen in the parkland areas. Black and Whistling Kites are frequently seen overhead.

5. E.J. BEARDMORE DAM

27°54'25"S, 148°38'58"E

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- From St George head 13.4 km north on the Carnaryon Hwy and turn left onto Thungaby Rd. Travel another 8 km to view Lake Kajarabie. From Surat head 103 km south to Thungaby Rd turnoff.
- Waterbirds include ducks, Black-tailed Native-hen, Eurasian Coot, Dusky Moorhen, cormorants, egrets, spoonbills, Australian Pelican, Black Swan and Black-winged Stilt. Numbers and species are subject to water levels.
- · Common Bronzewing, Silvereye, Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Shrike-thrush, Dollarbird, Scared Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Little Friarbird, Brownheaded Honeyeater, White-winged Chough, Australian Reed Warbler, Yellow Thornbill and Mistletoebird may be seen in areas of nearby bushland.

6. WARROO BRIDGE

27°38'35"S, 148°44'29"E

- From St George travel 52 km north on the Carnarvon Hwy; turn left at the 'Waganui/Warroo Bridge' sign. Travel a further 9 km west along sealed road to the camping area. From Surat head 65 km south to the turnoff.
- As this site is located on the banks of the Balonne River a similar range of birds may be seen as at Beardmore Dam.

7. BUCKINBAH WEIR

28° 04'25"S, 148°45'16"E

- From St George follow the Carnarvon Hwy towards Nindigully. At approx. 9 km take the Buckinbah Rd and follow for approx. 10.6 km.
- · Waterbirds may include spoonbills, herons, egrets, Australian Pelican, Eurasian Coot, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, cormorants and Australasian Darter. Large number of Plumed Whistling-duck may be present. Less frequent species include Glossy Ibis, Swamp Harrier, Brolga and Magpie-goose. Little Corella, Red-rumped Parrot and Variegated Fairywren can occur in habitats adjoining the weir.

8. BOLLON - WALLAM CREEK

28°01'54"S, 147°28'51"E

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- Located at the eastern end of Bollon on the northern side of the Balonne Hwy. Parking is available at the public toilets beside the Weir. A walkway follows the Creek allowing easy bird viewing.
- The Creek is fringed by River Red Gums and the water is permanent. Usually a great spot for bush birds with Australian Ringneck, Red-winged Parrot, White-plumed Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Spotted Bowerbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Double-barred Finch, Plum-headed Finch and Restless Flycatcher being regularly seen. Seasonally, Sacred Kingfishe and Rainbow Bee-eater are common. Waterbirds may include White-faced Heron, Whitenecked Heron, Nankeen Night-heron and Eastern Great Egret. Keep an eye out for Koalas too!

28°21'19"S. 148°49'15"E

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• The River walkway offers birdwatching opportunities where White-plumed Honeyeater, Peaceful Dove, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Cockatiel, Red-rumped Parrot, Striated Pardalote and White-breasted Woodswallow are typically seen in the eucalypts fringing the waterhole. Waterbirds include spoonbills, herons. Black-fronted Dotterel, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Pelican, Pacific Black Duck and Australian Wood Duck.

10. MUNGINDI - BARWON RIVER

28°58'33"S, 148°59'03"E (Barwon River crossing)

• Within the town area birding along the River may produce Redrumped Parrot, Spiny-cheeked and White-plumed Honeyeater, Peaceful Dove, Yellow-throated miner, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Double-barred Finch and Restless Flycatcher.

11. DIRRANBANDI - JACK DWYER MEMORIAL PARK / BALONNE MINOR RIVER

28°34'15"S, 148°13'53"E

- Jack Dwyer Memorial Park is located beside the Balonne Minor River. A walkway provides access to the River via Charles St on the northern edge of town.
- Small numbers waterbirds may be present and you may also see Emu, Western Gervgone, Rufous Whistler, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Grey Shrike-thrush, Red-rumped Parrot, Red-browed Pardalote and Variegated Fairy-wren. Look out for Wedge-tailed Eagle flying overhead.

12. HEBEL - BOKHARA RIVER

28°58'11"S, 147°47'51"E

- Bokhara River is worth a look and is accessed off the Castlereagh Hwy on the eastern edge of Hebel (immediately east of James St)
- The River supports small numbers of waterbirds; try also for Blue Bonnet, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Crimson Chat, White-winged Fairy-wren, Diamond Dove, Singing Honeyeater, Hooded Robin, Spotted Bowerbird and woodswallows.

13. THALLON

28°38'05"S, 148°52'03"E (town camping area)

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- Camping is available at the McGeever Recreational grounds near the grain silos - access via William St off Railway St
- Extensive dry woodlands are present to the south of the town in the stock route adjoining the Carnarvon Hwy. These are good places to look for Crested Bellbird and White-winged Fairy-wren.
- The Moonie River is accessed via the Dunwinnie/Noondoo-Thallon Rd located on the western side of the Carnarvon Hwy about 500 m north of the town centre. Travel approx. 1.3 km along this road to the River crossing.
- Small numbers of waterbirds particularly herons and egrets may be present while the fringing River Red Gum and Coolibah woodlands support a good range of bush birds.

Birds within the Balonne Shire

		1-ws wellow one	Duconice On		Last updated Julie 2017
☐ Emu C	☐ White-necked Heron C	☐ Black-fronted Dotterel C	□ Black-eared Cuckoo U	☐ White-eared Honeyeater U	☐ Torresian Crow C
☐ Stubble Quail C	☐ Cattle Egret VR	☐ Red-kneed Dotterel U	☐ Eastern Koel R	☐ Little Friarbird C	☐ Magpie-lark C
☐ Brown Quail U	☐ Little Egret U	☐ Masked Lapwing C	☐ Channel-billed Cuckoo R	☐ Noisy Friarbird C	☐ Restless Flycatcher C
☐ Magpie Goose VR	☐ White-faced Heron C	☐ Banded Lapwing U	☐ Southern Boobook C	☐ Striped Honeyeater C	☐ Leaden Flycatcher U
☐ Chestnut Teal R	☐ Nankeen Night-Heron C	☐ Australian Painted Snipe R	☐ Barking Owl U	☐ Fuscous Honeyeater R	☐ White-winged Chough C
☐ Grey Teal C	☐ Glossy Ibis U	☐ Common Sandpiper R	☐ Eastern Barn Owl C	☐ White-plumed Honeyeater C	☐ Apostlebird C
☐ Australasian Shoveler U	☐ Australian White Ibis C	☐ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper U	☐ Laughing Kookaburra C	☐ White-fronted Honeyeater VR	☐ Eastern Yellow Robin U
☐ Pacific Black Duck C	☐ Straw-necked Ibis C	☐ Latham's Snipe U	☐ Forest Kingfisher R	☐ Black Honeyeater R	☐ Hooded Robin C
☐ Hardhead C	☐ Yellow-billed Spoonbill C	☐ Red-chested Button-quail U	☐ Red-backed Kingfisher U	☐ White-fronted Chat R	☐ Jacky Winter C
☐ Musk Duck R	☐ Royal Spoonbill C	☐ Painted Button-quail U	☐ Sacred Kingfisher C	☐ Orange Chat R	☐ Red-capped Robin C
☐ Australian Wood Duck C	☐ Collared Sparrowhawk C	☐ Little Button-quail C	☐ Rainbow Bee-eater C	☐ Crimson Chat U	☐ Horsfield's Bushlark C
☐ Black Swan C	☐ Brown Goshawk C	☐ Whiskered Tern C	□ Dollarbird C	☐ Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush VR	Golden-headed Cisticola U
☐ Wandering Whistling-Duck R	☐ Wedge-tailed Eagle C	☐ Gull-billed Tern R	☐ White-browed Treecreeper U	☐ Chestnut-crowned Babbler R	☐ Australian Reed-Warbler C
☐ Plumed Whistling-Duck U	☐ Pacific Baza R	☐ Caspian Tern R	☐ Brown Treecreeper C	☐ White-browed Babbler R	☐ Brown Songlark C
☐ Pink-eared Duck U	☐ Swamp Harrier R	☐ Silver Gull U	☐ Spotted Bowerbird C	☐ Grey-crowned Babbler C	☐ Rufous Songlark C
☐ Freckled Duck R	☐ Spotted Harrier C	☐ Australian Pratincole R	☐ Superb Fairy-wren C	☐ Varied Sittella C	☐ Little Grassbird U
☐ Great Crested Grebe R	☐ Black-shouldered Kite C	☐ Sulphur-crested Cockatoo C	☐ Variegated Fairy-wren C	☐ Ground Cuckoo-shrike U	☐ Tawny Grassbird R
☐ Hoary-headed Grebe U	☐ Letter-winged Kite VR	☐ Little Corella C	☐ White-winged Fairy-wren C	☐ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike C	☐ Silvereye U
☐ Australasian Grebe C	☐ White-bellied Sea-Eagle R	☐ Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo R	☐ Red-backed Fairy-wren R	☐ White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike U	☐ White-backed Swallow R
☐ Spotted Turtle-Dove* C	☐ Whistling Kite C	☐ Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo R	☐ Splendid Fairy-wren C	☐ Cicadabird R	☐ Welcome Swallow C
□ Rock Dove* C	☐ Black-breasted Buzzard R	☐ Glossy Black-Cockatoo R	☐ Yellow Thornbill C	☐ White-winged Triller C	☐ Fairy Martin C
☐ Diamond Dove C	☐ Little Eagle C	☐ Galah C	☐ Buff-rumped Thornbill R	☐ Grey Shrike-thrush C	☐ Tree Martin C
☐ Bar-shouldered Dove C	☐ Square-tailed Kite U	☐ Major Mitchell's Cockatoo C	☐ Chestnut-rumped Thornbill C	☐ Crested Shrike-tit R	☐ Common Blackbird* R
☐ Peaceful Dove C	☐ Black Kite C	☐ Cockatiel C	☐ Southern Whiteface U	☐ Crested Bellbird C	☐ Common Myna* U
☐ Crested Pigeon C	☐ Brown Falcon C	☐ Red-winged Parrot C	☐ Speckled Warbler U	☐ Golden Whistler U	☐ Common Starling* C
☐ Common Bronzewing C	☐ Nankeen Kestrel C	☐ Mallee Ringneck C	☐ Western Gerygone C	☐ Rufous Wistler C	☐ Mistletoebird C
☐ Tawny Frogmouth C	☐ Grey Falcon VR	☐ Budgerigar C	☐ White-throated Gerygone C	☐ Olive-backed Oriole C	☐ Plum-headed Finch C
☐ Spotted Nightjar U	☐ Australian Hobby C	☐ Blue-winged Parrot VR	☐ Weebill C	☐ Australasian Figbird R	☐ Diamond Firetail R
☐ White-throated Nightjar R	☐ Peregrine Falcon R	☐ Blue Bonnet C	☐ Spotted Pardalote U	☐ Pied Butcherbird C	☐ Double-barred Finch C
☐ Australian Owlet-nightjar C	☐ Black Falcon U	☐ Pale-headed Rosella C	☐ Red-browed Pardalote U	☐ Australian Magpie C	☐ Zebra Finch C
☐ Fork-tailed Swift U	☐ Brolga C	☐ Eastern Rosella R	☐ Striated Pardalote C	☐ Grey Butcherbird C	☐ House Sparrow* C
☐ White-throated Needletail U	☐ Eurasian Coot C	☐ Red-rumped Parrot C	☐ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater C	☐ Pied Currawong C	☐ Australasian Pipit C
☐ Australasian Darter C	☐ Dusky Moorhen C	☐ Mulga Parrot C	☐ Yellow-faced Honeyeater U	☐ Black-faced Woodswallow C	
☐ Little Pied Cormorant C	☐ Buff-banded Rail R	☐ Scaly-breasted Lorikeet U	☐ Pied Honeyeater R	☐ Dusky Woodswallow U	
☐ Great Cormorant C	☐ Purple Swamphen U	☐ Rainbow Lorikeet U	☐ Blue-faced Honeyeater C	☐ White-breasted Woodswallow C	
☐ Little Black Cormorant C	☐ Australian Spotted Crake U	☐ Musk Lorikeet R	☐ Singing Honeyeater C	☐ Little Woodswallow C	
☐ Pied Cormorant U	☐ Baillon's Crake U	☐ Fan-tailed Cuckoo U	☐ Painted Honeyeater U	☐ Masked Woodswallow C	
☐ Australian Pelican C	☐ Black-tailed Native-hen C	☐ Pallid Cuckoo C	☐ Brown Honeyeater C	☐ White-browed Woodswallow C	KEY TO STATUS IN SHIRE C = Common
☐ Black-necked Stork R	☐ Australian Bustard U	☐ Brush Cuckoo R	☐ Yellow-throated Miner C	☐ Grey Fantail C	U = Uncommon
☐ Australasian Bittern VR	☐ Bush Stone-curlew R	☐ Pheasant Coucal U	□ Noisy Miner C	☐ Willie Wagtail C	R = Rare
☐ Eastern Great Egret C	☐ Black-winged Stilt C	☐ Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo C	☐ Brown-headed Honeyeater C	☐ Little Crow U	VR = Very Rare * = introduced species
□ Intermediate Egret C	□ Ped-necked Avocet II	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo II	□ Plack-chinned Henovester VP	□ Australian Payen C	introduced species