



This egg-laying mammal is active at night hence it is more visible at sunset and sunrise. It is still often seen during the day but usually for only 1 or 2 seconds before diving to forage.

- Rose Gums Creek
- Corner of Topaz and Heidke Road
- Yungaburra Bridge

Platypus



61 species of native frogs (27 endemic) are found in Tropical North Queensland, and are more obvious in the wet season. There are many green tree frogs, rocket frogs, stream frogs, marsh frogs, burrowing frogs, and then there is the feral cane toad!

Frogs



Northern brown & long-nosed bandicoots are marsupials that spend the day in a nest and forage at night. They dig conical holes in walking tracks and are often seen on roads and driveways.

Bandicoot



The smallest kangaroo is endemic to Tropical North Queensland rainforest, and is very primitive having evolved 20 million years ago. It is solitary but diurnal so can be seen during the day. The female bears two young at a time nurturing them in her pouch. Its tail is almost hairless and it has 4 toes on each hind foot.

- Rose Gums kangaroo hide

Musky-rat kangaroo



Tropical North Queensland has the richest diversity of insects and spiders in the world, and is home to thousands of spider species, (many undescribed). Common are the huntsman spiders which do not use a web to catch prey, are hairy and sometimes quite large. They are not dangerous but can bite if handled.

Spiders



Possums are marsupials often producing twins once a year. Night spotlighting reveals possums such as the coppery brush-tails, green ring-tails, striped possums and sugar gliders.

- Mt Hypipamee Crater
- Curtain Fig Tree

Possums



Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroos are large marsupials that eat rainforest leaves, are nocturnal but still sighted during the day, and found mainly on the Atherton Tablelands.

- Malanda Falls
- Mt Hypipamee Crater NP
- Peterson Creek walk, Yungaburra

Tree kangaroo



There are thousands of beetle, moth and dragonfly species, many undescribed, in Tropical North Queensland. There are 240 butterfly species alone. The Cairns Birdwing Butterfly is the largest in Australia, while the Hercules Moth is the heaviest in the world.

Insects



About 40 species of bat, the flying mammal, are found in Tropical North Queensland. The larger fruit and nectar-eating bats are called flying foxes. Other smaller bats eat insects.

- Tolga Scrub
- Centre of Cairns

Bats



Saw-shelled turtles are often seen in nearby lakes and rivers. Normally quite shy, they are easily seen at the viewing platform at Malanda Falls. It is one of the few native Australian animals successful in preying on the introduced and very poisonous cane toad.

Turtles



Rainforest does not support a large number of reptiles, only 55 out of 850 in Australia. Common sightings are the constrictors, scrub (amethystine) and carpet pythons. Dangerous snakes are rough-scaled snakes, small-eyed snakes, red-bellied black snakes, taipans and brown snakes. Look out on walking tracks and roads.

Snakes



Kangaroos are marsupials, and Australia has about 50 species.

- Mareeba rock wallabies can be seen up-close at Granite Gorge
- Eastern Grey Kangaroos on the Mareeba golf course
- Agile Wallabies at the Cairns beaches' turn-offs

Other kangaroos

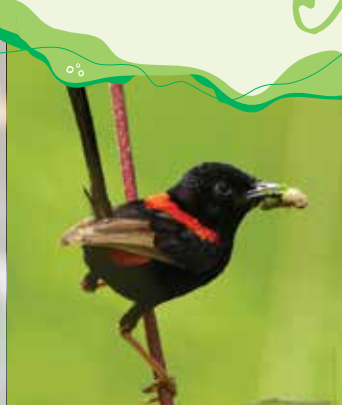
Rose Gums

WILDERNESS RETREAT



An elusive bird with a ringing 'whip-crack' (male) call: sharp 'choo choo' (female response), the Eastern Whipbird inhabits the understorey of rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.

Eastern Whipbird



The male Red-backed Fairy Wren has a crimson lower back and rump, while the female is grey-brown. They are seen usually in family parties in tall grass at the edge of the forest, and often on fence lines.

Red-backed Fairy Wren



Fruit-doves and cuckoo-doves are arboreal and feed almost entirely on fruit. They have large gapes enabling them to swallow large items such as berries. Often brightly coloured but difficult to see, they forage at the top of the rainforest. The Wompoo Fruit-Dove makes the distinctive loud 'wollack-a-woo' call.

Pigeons



The iconic Laughing Kookaburra is seen on power lines and often kills snakes up to 50cm long. It is the world's largest kingfisher. At sunset and sunrise its laughing call, in family groups is to let other birds know of its territory. It may live for 20 years.

Kookaburras



The endangered Cassowaries are generally elusive but some are used to people and easily seen. Take care with encounters. The male sits on the eggs and raises the chicks. This flightless bird can reach 2 metres in height.

- The Crater NP
- Etty Bay, Innisfail
- Mission Beach
- Daintree

Cassowary



This endemic bird builds a court of selected leaves to lure the female. The male impresses her by mimicking several other birds before mating. The nest is then built by the female.

Tooth-billed Bower Bird



This endemic bird of paradise displays in a very unique way on a dead tree stump to attract females. It makes a harsh advertising call at his display area. The female and young males are brown.

Victoria's Riflebird



Australia, 'The Land of Parrots' has 52 parrot species found in all habitats. The local Double-eyed Fig Parrots are Australia's smallest parrot.

- King Parrots & Rainbow Lorikeets at Rose Gums
- Sulphur-crested White cockatoos roost in tall eucalypts
- Red-tailed Black Cockatoos in Mareeba

Parrots

Australia has about 750 species of birds, and over 300 are endemic (found only in Australia). About half the birds recorded in the rainforest of Tropical North Queensland are also found in New Guinea. North Queensland has 12 endemics and is home to half the bird species in Australia.

Best birding spots:

- Hasties Swamp
- Malanda Falls
- Lake Eacham
- Lake Barrine
- The Crater National Park
- Wongabel State Forest
- Millaa Millaa Falls

Birds



Of the 15 crane species in the world, Australia has the Brolga and Sarus Crane, the tallest crane. They feed on the farmlands near Atherton from late May to November and congregate at sunset on Bromfield Swamp, Malanda and other wetlands. They fly north to breed on Cape York.

- Bromfield Swamp, Malanda

Cranes