

Birding Hinterland Regional Park

Mudgeeraba, Gold Coast, QLD

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February 2014

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Noisy Pitta (c) DS Hovorka

The Park

This guide provides information on birds in Hinterland Regional Park, and how to find them. The park's 62 hectares include 20 hectares used for cattle grazing. Although the area has a long history of agricultural use, heroic rehabilitation by the [Hinterland Bushcare Group](#) has produced a mosaic of wet open habitats, melaleuca wetland, dry eucalypt forest, and riparian rainforest.

Birds have responded well to the creation of this diversity of habitats, including the endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoo (although this species is a rare visitor). A list of 112 species seen during 20 visits to the park in 2012 is at the end of this guide.

How to get there

Hinterland Regional Park is located in Mudgeeraba.

From the Pacific Motorway approaching from the south, take Exit 80 signposted "The Link Way / Mudgeeraba", and bear left on Gold Coast Springbrook Road, following signs towards Springbrook. Continue through the 1st traffic lights and turn left at the second ones onto Hardys Rd. After 2 km the park is signposted on your left. As soon as you enter the park, turn left again and park there.

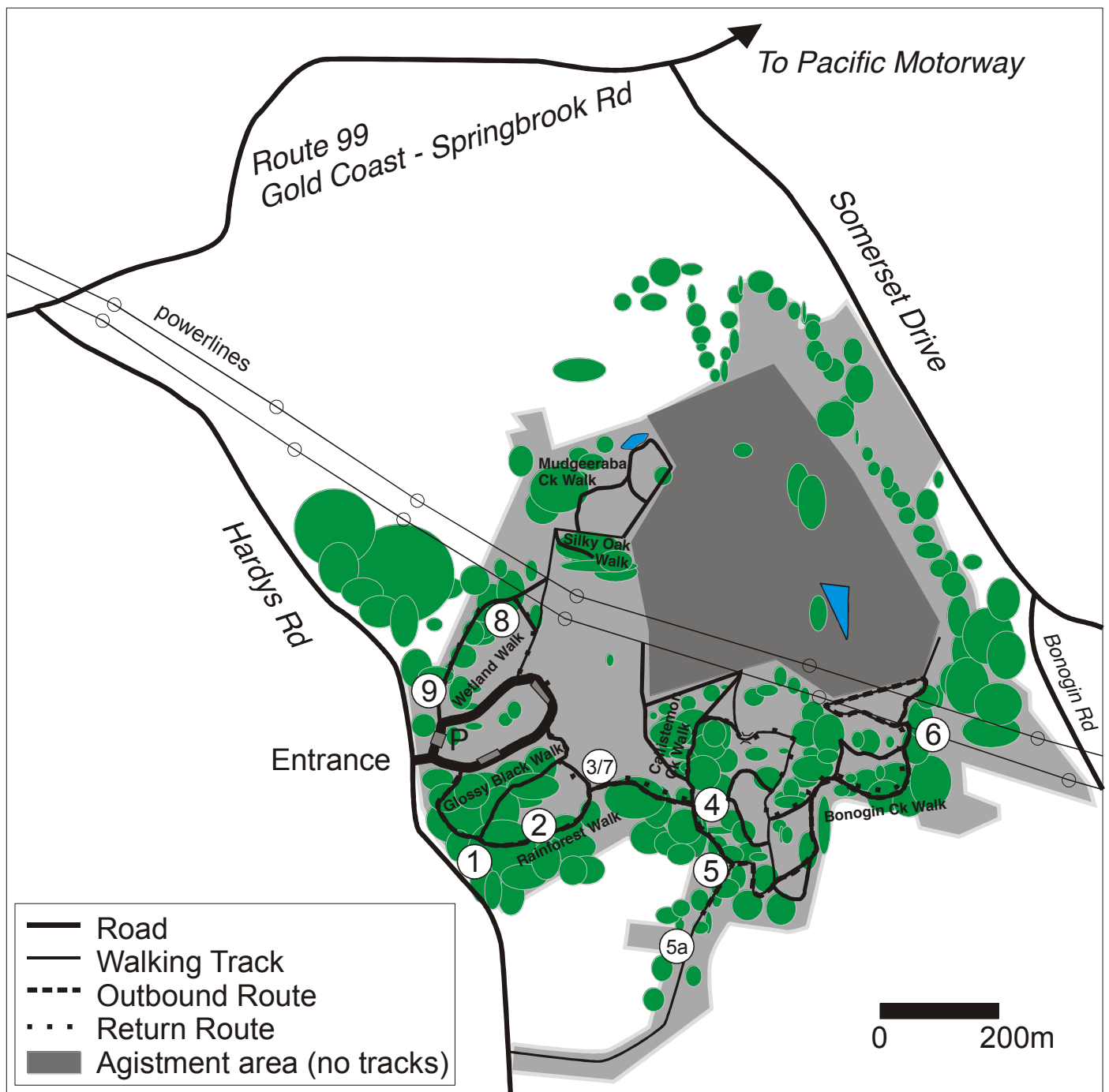
If approaching from the north on the Pacific Motorway, take Exit 79 signposted Mudgeeraba / Robina. Stay in the right lane of the off ramp, go through the lights and turn right at the roundabout towards Mudgeeraba / Springbrook. Go through a set of lights, then left at the roundabout "Railway St / 99". Follow the Link Way towards Springbrook, turning left at the roundabout into Franklin Drive. Continue through the 1st traffic lights and turn left at the second ones onto Hardys Rd. After 2 km the Park is signposted on your left. As soon as you enter the Park, turn left again and park there.

Walking Routes

The park has a labyrinth of tracks, all of which are not yet sign-posted. You can usually orient yourself from the power lines that cross the centre of the park. The map on the next page shows tracks in black, with numbered circles corresponding to areas mentioned in the text. The dashed lines indicate the suggested outbound walk, and dotted lines for the return walk.

The walk suggested in this guide takes about 2 hours, during which an experienced birder should be able to find 40-60 species.

Consider sharing the bird records from your trip by entering them into the [Eremaea eBird](#) database.



Hinterland Regional Park



1. Graham's Rainforest Gully

After parking to the left of the entrance, walk anti-clockwise around the ring road, watching for **Noisy Friarbird** in the flowering shrubs along the way.

Take the 1st ungated track entrance on the right (start of Glossy Black and Rainforest Walks), which is 25 m before the toilet block. Follow this track as it curves back near Hardys Road.

Watch for

Rose Robin and **Golden Whistler** in winter, and **Grey Shrike-thrush** any time. In spring and summer, listen for the sweet cascading song of **White-throated Gerygone**.

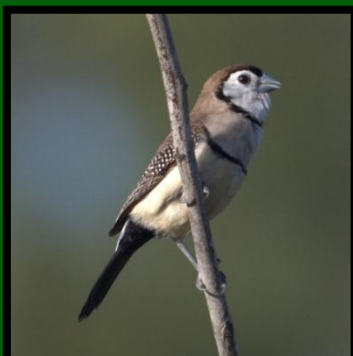
At the 1st fork, turn right to the boardwalk at the bottom of a small rainforest gully. Stop, watch and listen for a **Noisy Pitta**, **Eastern Whipbird** as well as **Eastern Yellow Robin**.



Eastern Yellow Robin



Rose Robin



Double-barred Finch



White-throated Honeyeater

2 Hillside forest

As you emerge from the rainforest you will pass through a dry eucalypt forest on a slope. This area is good for **Leaden Flycatcher** and **White-throated Honeyeater**.

In winter listen for the soft 2-part whistle of **Spotted Pardalote**, the "tsip-tsip" of **Scarlet Honeyeater**, and the "chuppity-chup" calls of **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** in the canopy.

3. Four-way junction

10 metres before a 4-way junction, notice the two small Hoop Pines with nests of **Double-barred Finch**. Even in the non-breeding season this is the best place to find these birds, often in the company of large flocks of **Red-browed Finch**. Continue straight on past the junction, to the huge fig tree at #4 on the map. Listen for the buzzing call of **Cicadabird**.

4 Fig Tree & Bonogin Ck Walk

As you approach the big fig tree ahead on your left, watch for a pair of **Pacific Baza**.

Turn right up a gentle slope under dense forest canopy, watching for: **Little Shrike Thrush**, **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**, **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Lewin's Honeyeater**, and (in winter) **Rose Robin**.

Continue walking around the wooden horse barrier into an open area.

5 Signboard

At the time of writing, the labelled track names on the signboard map are not posted on the tracks themselves, and the horse trails are misleading. If you have time, try the southern extension (#5a, below). Otherwise, follow the track that leads to the right of the signboard as you're facing it, down across a wet sandy overflow of Bonogin Creek, and up the other side. Continue to #6, the Grassland Loop.

5a Southern extension

Follow the wide lawn that leads directly behind you when reading the signboard. This affords views of Bonogin Ck on your left if you walk anywhere through the narrow strip of trees. You'll hear **Eastern Water Dragon** plopping into the creek, and may see **Nankeen Night-Heron**. After you've gone 100 m, turn around retrace your steps to the signboard (#5) and head for the Grassland loop.

6 Grassland loop

Follow the track, keeping Bonogin Ck on your right. This stretch of track is good for **Tawny Grassbird**, **Red-backed Fairy-wren**, **Superb Fairy-wren**, and **Sacred Kingfisher** (summer). As you pass under the power lines, the track curves left and leaves the creek. Check the wires for **Black-shouldered Kite** and **Dollarbird** (summer).

At the marker posts (facing a rough grassy area and power pylons), turn right and continue until you face the pasture fence. Turn right for an out-and-back walk or take a hard turn left to walk along the fence (views of pond in the distance on your right). This is one of three waterholes in the park, and can have a variety of waterbirds, including **Royal Spoonbill**, **Straw-necked Ibis**, or **Cattle Egret**.

At the corner of the fence under the powerline (near the pylon), turn left to complete the loop around the rough grassy area. Watch for **Fan-tailed** and **Shining Bronze-Cuckoos**.

7 Back to the four-way junction & to ring road

Retrace your steps along Bonogin Ck (now on your left). You may hear the whip-crack of **Eastern Whipbird**. **Striated Pardalotes** nest in tunnels dug into the creek bank. At the 3rd fork there's a marker post. Leave Bonogin Ck and turn right, cross the stones in a dip, then turn right at the T-junction. Continue past another left turn and over a bridge with wooden railings.

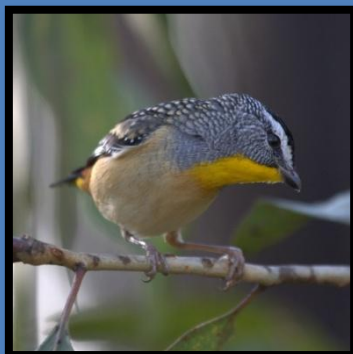
At the fork beyond the bridge, the left track will take you to the shady Callistemon Creek Walk, which leads back to the big fig tree at #4. In the shady section watch for **Grey Shrike-thrush**, **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**, **Little Shrike-thrush**, and **Large-billed Scrubwren**.



Pacific Baza



Tawny Grassbird



Spotted Pardalote



Superb Fairy-wren

Bear left around the fig tree and turn right at the junction where the Bonogin Ck Walk is on your left. Retrace your steps to the 4-way junction at #3, watching for **Glossy Black-Cockatoo** which have been seen munching quietly in the Casuarina trees.

At the 4-way junction, turn right across the double bridge. The wet grasslands on both sides of the bridge are usually reliable for **Tawny Grassbird**, **Red-backed Fairy-Wren**, and **Golden-headed Cisticola**. At the T-junction turn right, over the boardwalk, and up to the ring road. Turn right on the ring road. After you pass the playground you can either continue to your car, or bear right onto the gravel track toward #8, which will add a 20-min loop to your visit.

8 Wetland Walk

Watch for **Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike** and **Brown Honeyeater** along the gravel track. One option is to continue to the end of this road and explore some tracks and the waterhole in the north of the park, watching for **Brown Quail** and various grassland birds. Otherwise, take the 1st track on your left off the gravel track, and left again at a T-junction, and continue past a flooded melaleuca (paperbark) swamp. You may see **Scarlet Honeyeater**, **Rufous Whistler** or **Silvereye** along here.

9 Front Dam

After the melaleuca swamp you will eventually pass the Front Dam. It can offer waterbirds, such as **Pacific Black Duck**, **Australian Wood Duck**, and **Purple Swamphen**, especially early in the morning. Continue past the pond and you're back where you started.

Hinterland Regional Park Tick List

% is percentage of visits with records (during 20 visits in 2012).

[Eremaea eBird](#) shows 133 species recorded here (Feb 2014)

1	Magpie Goose	5%	
2	Plumed Whistling-Duck	5%	
3	Australian Wood Duck	60%	
4	Pacific Black Duck	90%	
5	Chestnut Teal	25%	
6	Hardhead	10%	
7	Brown Quail	30%	
8	Australasian Grebe	5%	
9	Black-necked Stork	5%	
10	Little Black Cormorant	20%	
11	Little Pied Cormorant	35%	
12	Australasian Darter	15%	
13	Australian Pelican	5%	
14	White-necked Heron	5%	
15	Eastern Great Egret	10%	
16	Intermediate Egret	20%	
17	White-faced Heron	45%	
18	Cattle Egret	65%	
19	Nankeen Night-Heron	20%	
20	Australian White Ibis	90%	
21	Straw-necked Ibis	60%	
22	Pacific Baza	10%	
23	Black-shouldered Kite	30%	
24	Whistling Kite	10%	
25	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	10%	
26	Grey Goshawk	10%	
27	Brown Goshawk	10%	
28	Collared Sparrowhawk	15%	
29	Peregrine Falcon	5%	
30	Buff-banded Rail	10%	
31	Purple Swamphen	55%	
32	Dusky Moorhen	25%	
33	Masked Lapwing	90%	
34	Rock Dove	15%	
35	Spotted Dove	45%	
36	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	35%	
37	Crested Pigeon	15%	
38	Peaceful Dove	30%	
39	Bar-shouldered Dove	95%	
40	Topknot Pigeon	5%	
41	Laughing Kookaburra	85%	
42	Forest Kingfisher	10%	
43	Sacred Kingfisher	20%	
44	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	0%	
45	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	15%	
46	Galah	25%	
47	Little Corella	70%	
48	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	90%	
49	Rainbow Lorikeet	100%	
50	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	70%	
51	Eastern Rosella	20%	
52	Pale-headed Rosella	40%	
53	Australian King-Parrot	5%	
54	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	30%	
55	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	20%	
56	Channel-billed Cuckoo	15%	
57	Dollarbird	30%	

58	Noisy Pitta	10%	
59	Variegated Fairy-wren	35%	
60	Superb Fairy-wren	85%	
61	Red-backed Fairy-wren	90%	
62	Eastern Spinebill	25%	
63	Lewin's Honeyeater	85%	
64	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	40%	
65	Little Wattlebird	10%	
66	Noisy Miner	100%	
67	Scarlet Honeyeater	65%	
68	Brown Honeyeater	85%	
69	White-throated Honeyeater	45%	
70	Blue-faced Honeyeater	40%	
71	Little Friarbird	5%	
72	Noisy Friarbird	95%	
73	Striped Honeyeater	10%	
74	Spotted Pardalote	45%	
75	Striated Pardalote	85%	
76	White-browed Scrubwren	35%	
77	Large-billed Scrubwren	30%	
78	Brown Thornbill	65%	
79	White-throated Gerygone	40%	
80	Eastern Whipbird	100%	
81	Grey Butcherbird	80%	
82	Pied Butcherbird	100%	
83	Australian Magpie	85%	
84	Pied Currawong	100%	
85	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	100%	
86	Cicadabird	30%	
87	Rufous Shrike-thrush	20%	
88	Grey Shrike-thrush	40%	
89	Golden Whistler	65%	
90	Rufous Whistler	50%	
91	Olive-backed Oriole	25%	
92	Australasian Figbird	55%	
93	Spangled Drongo	80%	
94	Willie Wagtail	75%	
95	Grey Fantail	75%	
96	Rufous Fantail	5%	
97	Magpie-lark	100%	
98	Leaden Flycatcher	25%	
99	Torresian Crow	100%	
100	Rose Robin	50%	
101	Eastern Yellow Robin	45%	
102	Welcome Swallow	55%	
103	Fairy Martin	5%	
104	Tree Martin	20%	
105	Tawny Grassbird	90%	
106	Golden-headed Cisticola	70%	
107	Silvereye	100%	
108	Common Myna	55%	
109	Mistletoebird	25%	
110	Red-browed Finch	100%	
111	Double-barred Finch	70%	
112	Nutmeg Mannikin	5%	
113	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	10%	