



Red Knot



Osprey

produced by members of  
BirdLife Northern NSW Group  
& Byron Bird Buddies

# Bird Watching in and around Ballina



Sooty Oystercatcher



To protect wildlife please leave your dog at home.  
Fines apply in National Parks.

For further information about Ballina contact Ballina Visitors  
Centre: [discover@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:discover@ballina.nsw.gov.au) or phone 1800 777 666

To download a PDF of the brochure:  
[www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au](http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au) or [discover@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:discover@ballina.nsw.gov.au)  
or [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

For more local information about birding around  
Ballina or to report a new bird sighting please email:  
[richmondbrunswickbirdwatchers@gmail.com](mailto:richmondbrunswickbirdwatchers@gmail.com)

We encourage you to submit your bird observations to BirdLife  
Australia's national database [www.birdata.birdlife.org.au/](http://www.birdata.birdlife.org.au/)  
In Birdata, all birdwatching locations in this brochure have  
been defined as Shared Sites and under Program/details  
submit as a General Birdata Survey.

**Contributions from:**  
Richmond/Brunswick Birdwatchers &  
Ballina 2020 Shorebird Group members

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This brochure is an update of the "Bird Watching in and around  
Ballina Shire" brochure produced in 1995 by Barry Rutledge and  
June Harris of BirdLife Northern NSW.



Black-necked Stork



White-bellied Sea-eagle

This brochure provides information on 16 locations from  
coast to hinterland and a list of most bird species (nearly  
330) which have been recorded in the Ballina Shire. Some  
vagrant and rare birds have been omitted from the list and  
only a small selection of birds sighted in each location has  
been provided, but many of the birds in the Ballina Shire  
species list can be viewed in suitable habitat and the  
right season at multiple sites. A definitive list  
can be downloaded from the Byron Buddies website.

These habitat niches add up to satisfy food, shelter, roosting  
and breeding needs for a great variety of birds and provide  
a wonderful area for birdwatchers to explore.

Ballina Shire covers an area of 485 square  
Kilometres and, as part of the Northern  
Rivers, falls within what is known as  
the Macleay-McPherson overlap which  
incorporates sub-tropical and temperate  
climates creating wide biological  
diversity. The Shire has much to offer,  
from surf, sand and rock pools overlooked  
by broad jagged rock faces, steep hillsides  
covered with subtropical rainforest and remnants  
of the Big Scrub on the Alstonville Plateau; to wide areas  
of coastal heath, littoral rainforest and mangroves on  
the floodplains. Of particular significance is the imposing  
Richmond River with its beautiful tributaries, and Flat Rock  
at Lennox Head. These areas provide roosting and feeding  
sites and host the largest numbers of migratory shorebirds  
and terns in our Shire. Because the Richmond River flows  
into the ocean at Ballina, ocean birds are also often seen  
feeding between South Ballina and Lennox Head.



## Welcome to Birdwatching around Ballina Shire

**Ballina Shire lies within the lands of the Bundjalung Nation who are the acknowledged traditional custodians of this land.**

### Birds you may see in Ballina Shire

**Key** - Status relative to Ballina Shire;

**Threatened Species - NSW**  
C = Common (should encounter)  
U = Uncommon (reasonable chance of encountering)  
R = Rare  
I = Introduced species

- Red-capped Plover **U**
- Double-banded Plover **C**
- Lesser Sand Plover** **U**
- Greater Sand Plover** **C**
- Black-fronted Dotterel **C**
- Masked Lapwing **C**
- Red-kneed Dotterel **C**
- Comb-crested Jacana** **C**
- Whimbrel **C**
- Little Curlew **R**
- Eastern Curlew** **C**
- Bar-tailed Godwit **C**
- Black-tailed Godwit **R**
- Ruddy Turnstone **C**
- Great Knot** **C**
- Red Knot **C**
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper **C**
- Curlw Sandpiper** **C**
- Red-necked Stint **C**
- Sanderling** **U**
- Pectoral Sandpiper **R**
- Latham's Snipe **C**
- Terek Sandpiper** **U**
- Common Sandpiper **U**
- Grey-tailed Jaeger **R**
- Wandering Tattler **U**
- Common Greenshank **C**
- Wood Sandpiper **U**
- Marsh Sandpiper **U**

- Geese, Ducks, Swans & Grebes**
- Plumed Whistling-Duck **U**
- Wandering Whistling-Duck **U**
- Cotton Pygmy-goose **R**
- Pink-eared Duck **U**
- Black Swan **C**
- Hardhead **C**
- Australasian Shoveler **U**
- Pacific Black Duck **C**
- Grey Teal **C**
- Chestnut Teal **C**
- Freckled Duck** **R**
- Musk Duck **R**
- Australian Wood Duck **C**
- Hoary-headed Grebe **U**
- Australasian Grebe **U**

- Herons, Egrets & Bitterns**
- Australian Little Bittern **R**
- Black Bittern **R**
- Nankeen Night-Heron **U**
- Striated Heron **C**
- Cattle Egret **C**
- White-necked Heron **C**
- Great Egret **C**
- Intermediate Egret **C**
- White-faced Heron **C**
- Little Egret **C**
- Eastern Reef Egret **U**

- Ocean Birds**
- Northern Giant-Petrel **R**
- Fairy Prion **R**
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater **C**
- Flesh-footed Shearwater **R**
- Streaked Shearwater **R**
- Fluttering Shearwater **C**
- Common Diving-Petrel **R**
- Lesser Frigatebird **R**

- Gannets, Gulls, Noddies and Terns**
- Australasian Gannet **C**
- Brown Booby **R**
- Long-tailed Jaeger **R**
- Arctic Jaeger **U**
- Pomarine Jaeger **C**
- Brown Skua **R**
- Common Noddy **R**
- Black Noddy **R**
- Silver Gull **C**
- Sooty Tern **R**
- Little Tern** **C**
- Australian Gull-billed Tern **C**
- Caspian Tern **U**
- Whiskered Tern **U**
- White-winged Black Tern **U**
- White-fronted Tern **U**
- Common Tern **C**
- Crested Tern **C**

- Pittas, Lyrebirds & Treecreepers**
- Noisy Pitta **U**
- Albert's Lyrebird** **R**
- White-throated Treecreeper **C**

- Bush Stone-curlew** **U**
- Beach Stone-curlew** **U**
- Australian Pied Oystercatcher** **C**
- Sooty Oystercatcher** **C**
- Red-necked Avocet **U**
- Black-winged Stilt **C**
- Grey Plover **R**
- Pacific Golden Plover **C**

- Darters, Cormorants & Pelicans**
- Little Pied Cormorant **C**
- Great Cormorant **C**
- Little Black Cormorant **C**
- Pied Cormorant **C**
- Australasian Darter **C**
- Australian Pelican **C**

- Frogmouths, Nightjars & Owls**
- Tawny Frogmouth **C**
- White-throated Nightjar **U**
- Australian Owlet-nightjar **C**
- Barn Owl **C**
- Eastern Grass Owl** **R**
- Southern Boobook **C**

- Cuckoos**
- Pheasant Coucal **C**
- Eastern Koel **C**
- Channel-billed Cuckoo **C**
- Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo **C**
- Shining Bronze-Cuckoo **C**
- Little Bronze-Cuckoo **R**
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo **C**
- Brush Cuckoo **C**
- Pallid Cuckoo **R**

- Kingfishers, Bee-eaters & Rollers**
- Rainbow Bee-eater **C**
- Dollarbird **C**
- Azure Kingfisher **U**
- Forest Kingfisher **U**
- Sacred Kingfisher **C**
- Laughing Kookaburra **C**

- Honeyeaters**
- Scarlet Honeyeater **C**
- Striped Honeyeater **C**
- Noisy Friarbird **C**
- Little Friarbird **U**
- Brown Honeyeater **C**
- White-cheeked Honeyeater **C**
- Blue-faced Honeyeater **C**
- Brown-headed Honeyeater **R**
- White-naped Honeyeater **R**
- Eastern Spinebill **C**
- Lewin's Honeyeater **C**
- Little Wattlebird **C**
- Red Wattlebird **R**
- Mangrove Honeyeater **R**
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater **C**
- Noisy Miner **C**

- Robins & Thrushes**
- Rose Robin **R**
- Jacky Winter **R**
- Eastern Yellow Robin **U**
- Pale-yellow Robin **U**
- Russet-tailed Thrush **R**

- Reed-warblers & Grassbirds**
- Golden-headed Cisticola **C**
- Tawny Grassbird **C**
- Little Grassbird **C**
- Australian Reed-Warbler **C**

- Finches, Mannikins & Flowerpeckers**
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin **C**
- Red-browed Finch **C**
- Double-barred Finch **C**
- Mistletoebird **C**

- Babblers, Logrunners & Whipbirds**
- Grey-crowned Babbler **R**
- Australian Logrunner **U**
- Eastern Whipbird **C**

- Cuckoo-shrikes & Trillers**
- Barred Cuckoo-shrike** **U**
- Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike **C**
- White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike **U**
- Cicadabird **C**

- Martins & Swallows**
- Fairy Martin **C**
- Tree Martin **C**
- Welcome Swallow **C**

- Myas, Sparrows & Pipits**
- Common Starling **I, U**
- Common Myna **I, C**
- House Sparrow **I, C**
- Australasian Pipit **U**

