Birds of Boondall Wetlands: a checklist

Boondall Wetlands lie on the edge of Moreton Bay and is Brisbane’s largest wetland, covering more than 1000 hectares of internationally recognised significant habitat. The wetland is home to a wide variety of native bird life inhabiting its tidal flats, mangroves and open forests. With over 190 species of birds to discover, how many can you find?

This initiative is part of our vision for the city’s future – Living in Brisbane 2010.

Checklist – Birds of Boondall Wetlands

KEY
* internationally significant
^ most likely to be seen

Quails
- Stubble Quail
- Brown Quail

Geese, Ducks & Grebes
- Magpie Goose
- Australian Wood Duck ^
- Hardhead
- Pacific Black Duck ^
- Grey Teal
- Chestnut Teal
- Australasian Grebe

Darters, Cormorants & Pelicans
- Darter ^
- Great Cormorant
- Little Black Cormorant
- Pied Cormorant ^
- Little Pied Cormorant
- Australian Pelican ^

Herons, Egrets, Ibises, Spoonbills & Storks
- White-Necked Heron
- White-Faced Heron ^
- Cattle Egret *^ 
- Little Egret
- Great Egret *^ 
- Intermediate Egret ^
- Nankeen Night Heron ^
- Striated Heron
- Glossy Ibis *
• Straw-necked Ibis
• Australian White Ibis *
• Royal Spoonbill
• Yellow-billed Spoonbill
• Black-necked Stork

**Hawks, Eagles & Falcons**
• Osprey
• Black-shoudered Kite *
• Brahminy Kite *
• Whistling Kite *
• Pacific Baza
• Collared Sparrowhawk
• Brown Goshawk
• Grey Goshawk
• White-bellied Sea-eagle *
• Little Eagle
• Wedge-tailed Eagle
• Swamp Harrier
• Brown Falcon
• Nankeen Kestrel *
• Peregrine Falcon
• Australian Hobby

**Rails, Swamphens & Coots**
• Buff-banded Rail
• Lewin’s Rail
• Dusky Moorhen
• Purple Swamphen
• Eurasian Coot

**Snipes, Godwits, Curlews, Sandpipers, Knots & allies**
• Latham’s Snipe *
• Bar-tailed Godwit **
• Black-tailed Godwit *
• Eastern Curlew **
• Whimbrel **
• Common Greenshank *
• Marsh Sandpiper *
• Common Sandpiper *
• Terek Sandpiper *
• Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *
• Pectoral Sandpiper *
• Broad-billed Sandpiper *
• Curlew Sandpiper **
• Grey-tailed Tattler *
• Ruddy Turnstone *
• Red Knot *
• Great Knot *
• Red-necked Stint *\(^\wedge\)
• Australasian Gannet
• Pied Oystercatcher

**Stilts, Avocets, Plovers, Dotterels & Lapwings**
• Black-winged Stilt ^
• Red-necked Avocet
• Pacific Golden Plover
• Grey Plover *
• Red-capped Plover
• Double-banded Plover
• Lesser Sand Plover *
• Greater Sand Plover *
• Red-kneed Dotterel
• Black-fronted Dotterel
• Masked Lapwing ^

**Gulls & Terns**
• Silver Gull ^
• Whiskered Tern
• Caspian Tern *
• Gull-billed Tern
• Crested Tern *\(^\wedge\)
• Common Tern *
• Little Tern *

**Pigeons & Doves**
• Peaceful Dove
• Bar-shouldered Dove
• Crested Pigeon ^

**Cockatoos, Corellas & Parrots**
• Galah ^
• Little Corella
• Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
• Rainbow Lorikeet ^
• Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
• Little Lorikeet
• Pale-headed Rosella

**Cuckoos & Pheasant Coucals**
• Oriental Cuckoo *
- Pallid Cuckoo
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo
- Brush Cuckoo
- Horsfield’s Bronze-cuckoo
- Shining Bronze-cuckoo
- Little Bronze-cuckoo
- Common Koel
- Channel-billed Cuckoo
- Pheasant Coucal

**Owls, Frogmouths & Owlet Nightjars**
- Southern Boobook
- Barn Owl
- Grass Owl
- Tawny Frogmouth
- Australian Owlet-nightjar
- Swifts
- Fork-tailed Swift *
- White-throated Needletail *

**Kingfishers, Bee-eaters & Rollers**
- Laughing Kookaburra ^
- Forest Kingfisher
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Collared Kingfisher ^
- Rainbow Bee-eater ^
- Dollarbird

**Treecreepers, Fairy-wrens, Robins & White-eyes**
- White-throated Treecreeper
- Brown Treecreeper
- Superb Fairy-wren
- Variegated Fairy-wren ^
- Red-backed Fairy-wren
- Eastern Yellow Robin
- Jacky Winter
- Silvereye

**Pardalotes, Scrubwrens, Gerygones & Thornbills**
- Striated Pardalote ^
- White-browed Scrubwren
- Brown Gerygone
- Mangrove Gerygone ^
- White-throated Gerygone
- Brown Thornbill
- Yellow Thornbill
Honeyeaters
- Little Friarbird
- Noisy Friarbird
- Striped Honeyeater
- Blue-faced Honeyeater
- Noisy Miner
- Lewin’s Honeyeater
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater
- Mangrove Honeyeater
- White-throated Honeyeater
- White-naped Honeyeater
- White-cheeked Honeyeater
- Scarlet Honeyeater
- Brown Honeyeater

Babblers, Whipbirds & Sittellas
- Grey-crowned Babbler
- Eastern Whipbird
- Varied Sittella

Whistlers & Shrike-thrushes
- Golden Whistler
- Rufous Whistler
- Grey Shrike-thrush

Monarchs, Flycatchers & Fantails
- Black-faced Monarch
- Leaden Flycatcher
- Satin Flycatcher
- Restless Flycatcher
- Willie Wagtail
- Rufous Fantail
- Grey Fantail

Cuckoo-shrikes, Cicadabirds & Trillers
- Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
- Cicadabird
- Varied Triller
- Orioles & Figbirds
- Olive-backed Oriole
- Figbird

Woodswallows, Butcherbirds, Magpies, Currawongs & Crows
- White-breasted
- Woodswallow
- Masked Woodswallow
- Grey Butcherbird
- Pied Butcherbird
- Magpie-lark
- Australian Magpie
- Pied Currawong
- Spangled Drongo
- Torresian Crow

Finches & Mannikins
- Double-barred Finch
- Red-browed Finch
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin

Swallows & Martins
- Mistletoebird
- Welcome Swallow
- Tree Martin
- Fairy Martin

Reed-Warblers, Grassbirds & Pipits
- Clamorous Reed-warbler
- Tawny Grassbird
- Little Grassbird
- Brown Songlark
- Golden Songlark
- Golden-headed Cisticola
- Richard’s Pipit

Migratory shorebirds
Many of Boondall’s birds are listed under international migratory shorebird agreements. Migratory shorebirds fly many thousands of kilometres annually between their breeding and non-breeding areas. During their migration they stop off at many wetland sites to fuel the next leg of their flight. The route they travel along is called a flyway. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway stretches from Siberia and Alaska southwards through east and south-east Asia to Australia and New Zealand. It is used by 55 migratory species and over five million birds.

How to love and protect Boondall’s birds
- Walk quietly as you enjoy the birds. Watch shorebirds from a distance as they are easily disturbed and may not survive their arduous migratory journeys if they are stressed.
- Dogs disturb birds so it is best to leave them at home. Otherwise, ensure they are on a leash.
Where are Boondall Wetlands?
Boondall Wetlands lie between Nudgee Beach, Boondall and Shorncliffe, only 15 km north of Brisbane’s CBD. Visit the Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre along Paperbark Drive at the end of Bicentennial Road, Boondall. Take the Boondall exit off the Gateway Motorway and follow the signs to Boondall Wetlands. The wetlands can also be reached via Nudgee Road, Nudgee Beach.

For more information about other Council environment initiatives visit or phone (07) 3403 8888.