

Northwestern NT



- 1 [Buntine Highway](#)
- 2 [Victoria Highway](#)
- 3 [Victoria River Roadhouse](#)
- 4 [Timber Creek](#)
- 5 [Judbarra Gregory National Park](#)
- 6 [Jasper Gorge](#)
- 7 [Keep River National Park](#)

Buntine Highway

Buntine Hwy (96) is a 580km regional road that runs north-southwest through the Northern Territory. It starts at Victoria Hwy (1) half-way between Katherine and Timber Creek, and leads via Top Springs and Kalkarindji to intersect with Duncan Rd in Western Australia. The 360km section from Victoria Hwy to Kalkarindji is a single-lane sealed road. The remaining part is unsealed and unfenced.

The road runs through various habitats, with savannah woodland being the predominant landscape. The only decent place to stay along the road is the Top Springs Roadhouse.

Over 130 bird species have been recorded along Buntine Hwy. **Key species** are Gouldian Finch, Pictorella Mannikin, Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, Northern Shrike-tit, Golden-backed Honeyeater and Black-breasted Buzzard. Other birds of interest include Red-backed Kingfisher, Paperbark Flycatcher, Apostlebird, Jacky Winter, Banded Honeyeater, Long-tailed Finch, Masked Finch, Red-browed Pardalote and Spotted Harrier. Rarities include Yellow-rumped Mannikin, Buff-sided Robin, Star Finch, Grey Falcon and Little Eagle.

Buntine Hwy at 15°18'11"S and 131°34'18"E



A pair of Long-tailed Finches

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

This spot is located not far from the turnoff from Victoria Hwy. A local ephemeral waterhole attracts finches in the dry season. Look for Gouldian Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Masked Finch, Double-barred Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Keep an eye on the sky; Black-breasted Buzzards have been observed here several times.

Buntine Hwy at 15°19'07''S and 131°34'59''E

There is a creek crossing at this location, about 2km from the turnoff from Victoria Hwy. Inspect any waterholes in the creek bed as well as bushland up to 1km before and 1km past the crossing. Gouldian Finches are recorded here frequently among the more common species. You may also come across Yellow-rumped Mannikin and Star Finch. Northern Shrike-tits have been sighted in the bush near the creek. Hooded Robins are occasionally reported from this site.

Look also for Jacky Winter, Weebill, Varied Sittella, White-winged Triller, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater and Masked Woodswallow. In the grassland, you may find Brown Quail, Australian Bustard, Golden-headed Cisticola and Rufous Songlark. Spotted Harrier was recorded.

Buntine Hwy at 15°20'07''S and 131°35'07''E

This is Humbles Creek crossing, about 5km from the Victoria Hwy turnoff. A water tank near the road is often leaking, which attract the birds. This is another spot where a variety of finches can be found. It is particularly reliable for Gouldian Finches. Also, large numbers of Star Finches are reported to come for a drink here.

Check the roadside trees for Northern Shrike-tits and Golden-backed Honeyeaters.

When paperbarks are blooming, you may experience masses of pollen- and nectar-feeding birds including Masked Woodswallows, Varied Lorikeets, Yellow-tinted Honeyeaters, Banded Honeyeaters, Rufous-throated Honeyeaters, Silver-crowned Friarbirds and Little Friarbirds.

Other birds in the area include Budgerigar, Black-faced Woodswallow, Northern Fantail, Great Bowerbird, Oriental Dollarbird, Black-tailed Treecreeper and Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo.

Buntine Hwy at 15°33'01''S and 131°38'38''E

This place is located 35km from the Victoria Hwy turnoff. There is a small dam here, not visible from the road. Look for a farm track to the right and walk about 100m to the dam. This is a good place for the waders; you may also encounter Australian Pelicans, Black-necked Storks, Hardheads, White-necked Herons, Plumed Whistling-Ducks, Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens, Apostlebirds and Spotted Harriers, or even catch a glimpse of a Grey Falcon.

Top Springs

Top Springs is located at the crossroads of Buntine Hwy (96) and Buchanan Hwy (80), 165km from the Victoria Hwy turnoff and 290km from Katherine. It has the population of 3, a roadhouse and a caravan park. The main magnet of this place is a remote Aussie pub filled with memorabilia. Stop here for a cold beer and the famous Outback hospitality. At the back of the pub is a waterhole which can be very productive for raptors and finches.

Over 120 bird species have been recorded around Top Springs. **Key species** are Grey Falcon, Black Falcon, Gouldian Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Spinifex Pigeon. Other birds of interest include Black-breasted Buzzard, Spotted Harrier, Apostlebird, Bar-shouldered Dove, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Red-browed Pardalote, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Chestnut-backed Button-quail, Long-tailed Finch and Masked Finch. Rarities include Common Myna, Flock Bronzewing, Buff-banded Rail and Little Eagle.

Top Springs offers you a good chance to spot a Grey Falcon flying over the roadhouse or harassing pigeons and parrots near the waterhole. Altogether, 16 raptor species have been recorded in the area. A hundred or more Black Kites hang around the roadhouse. Other birds of prey include Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Hobby, Brown Falcon and Black-shouldered Kite.

The most visible birds are the parrots, particularly when Budgerigars and Cockatiels arrive for a drink. Ten finch species are present in the area. Pictorella Mannikins are recorded in huge flocks. Look also for Star Finch, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Masked Finch and Gouldian Finch. Honeyeaters are represented by 16 species including Golden-backed Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Yellow-throated Miner. During the Wet, large flocks of Oriental Pratincoles may appear.



Masked Finch with a juvenile Gouldian Finch sneaking in into the frame

Other birds in the area include Sacred Kingfisher, White-winged Triller, Rainbow Bee-eater, Australian Bustard, Horsfield's Bushlark, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, White-throated Gerygone and Tree Martin.

A single Common Myna was recorded near the roadhouse in July 2016.

Kalkarindji

The township of Kalkarindji is located 360km from the Victoria Hwy turnoff. The bitumen ends here. Victoria River flows through Kalkarindji and a large waterhole in the riverbed under the bridge retains water year-round. A robust, isolated population of Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens lives there, easy to watch from the bridge.

Finches come daily to drink from the waterhole. Most common are Long-tailed Finch, Black-bellied Crimson Finch and Zebra Finch. Yellow-rumped Mannikins are occasionally encountered. Large flocks of Straw-necked Ibises regularly roost in trees near the bridge. Wetland birds include Radjah Shelduck, White-necked Heron, Black-necked Stork, Brolga and Common Sandpiper.

In woodland along the river, look for Buff-sided Robin, Paperbark Flycatcher, Rufous Songlark, Red-backed Kingfisher, Azure Kingfisher, Jacky Winter, White-gaped Honeyeater, Rufous-throated Honeyeater, Varied Lorikeet and Brown Goshawk.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

The township is ruled by Great Bowerbirds. Several bowers have been established. Australian Bustards can be spotted in grassland at the edges of town.

Victoria Highway

The length of Victoria Hwy (1) in NT is 470km, all sealed. The road runs northeast-southwest from Katherine to the WA border through the vast savannah plains fringed by escarpment country. There are several spots along the route with waterholes, creek crossings and rivers where you can stop in search of finches, button-quails and raptors. Some of the more promising spots are described below.

Mathison Rest Area

This spot is located at the GPS coordinates of 15°08'23''S and 131°41'02''E, about 25km northeast of the junction with Buntine Hwy (96). You'll find toilets here and a water tank that is usually leaking, attracting birds. A flock of Apostlebirds lives around the rest area. Other birds include Masked Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Budgerigar and Australian Owlet-nightjar. Look also for raptors such as Black-breasted Buzzard, Wedge-tailed Eagle and Black Falcon.

Victoria Hwy at 15°16'57''S and 131°34'43''E

This spot is located 4km east of the junction with Buntine Hwy (96). There is a creek crossing there with an ephemeral waterhole which can yield a large variety of birds. In particular, Star Finches are often reported. A pair of Black-breasted Buzzards have often been seen flying over the area. Red-browed Pardalotes call loudly from the creekline vegetation. In winter, masses of Masked Woodswallows feed in the flowering gums. Other birds at this site include Australian Bustard, Brolga, Varied Lorikeet, Apostlebird, Banded Honeyeater, White-quilled Honeyeater and Australian Hobby.

Brandy Bottle Creek

The name on the roadside sign actually says Bottle Brandy Creek, I guess somebody had a tad too much of it. The site is located 2.5km southwest of the junction with Buntine Hwy (96). GPS coordinates are 15°18'59''S and 131°33'35''E.

Sit at the waterhole and observe masses of Cockatiels, Budgerigars and Apostlebirds arriving for a sip of water. Brolgas, Black-necked Storks, White-necked Herons, Little Egrets and Nankeen Night-Herons often stand in the shallow water. In the bushland,

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

search for Jackie Winter, White-throated Gerygone, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Great Bowerbird, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo and Green Oriole.



Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo

It is also a good spot for raptors, where rarer species such as Square-tailed Kite, Little Eagle and Black-breasted Buzzard have been recorded.

Victoria Hwy at 15°25'52"S and 131°28'31"E

This spot is located 20km southwest of the Buntine Hwy junction. A small dam can be found on the north side of the road. It can be very productive at times. In the Wet, a variety of waterbirds is found here including Freckled Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Red-kneed Dotterel and Wood Sandpiper.

Pale-vented Bush-hens were recorded several times, including one with a small chick. Star Finches, Masked Finches and Long-tailed Finches regularly come for a drink. In grassy areas, look for Australian Bustard, Brown Quail and Red-chested Button-quail. The waterhole is often teeming with parrots such as Budgerigars, Cockatiels, Galahs and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos.

Other birds recorded in the area include Tawny Grassbird, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Brush Cuckoo and Olive-backed Oriole.

Campbell Spring

Campbell Spring is located 40km past the Buntine Hwy junction. GPS coordinates are 15°29'42''S and 131°23'20''E. A creek runs along the south side of the road. Black Bittern is resident in the creekline vegetation. This spot is also good for finches; look for Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Black-bellied Crimson Finch and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. The common Chestnut-breasted Mannikins arrive in huge flocks for a drink. Other birds include Banded Honeyeater, Yellow-tined Honeyeater, Azure Kingfisher, Red-browed Pardalote, Oriental Dollarbird and Australian Owlet-nightjar.

Dingo Creek

Dingo Creek site is located 20km east of Timber Creek at GPS coordinates of 15°44'07''S and 130°33'30''E. A short track runs to the creek about 100m west of the creek crossing. Turn into it and follow for about 50m to get to a small carparking place.

The area is very productive. Black Bittern can be flushed from the stands of pandanus along the creek edge. Nankeen Night-Herons roost there. Finches are abundant, with Pictorella Mannikin and Gouldian Finch recorded. Little Woodswallows often fly over the creek. Other birds in the area include Red-browed Pardalote, Northern Rosella, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, Tawny Grassbird, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo and Pheasant Coucal. Among the nocturnal birds are Spotted Nightjar and Australian Owlet-nightjar.

Durack Monument

Durack Monument commemorates the pioneering Durack family who established the cattle industry in the Kimberley-NT area. The memorial is located at the junction of Bullita Access Tk (on Google maps called just Bullita/Timber Ck), about 10km east of Timber Creek. GPS coordinates are 15°44'16''S and 130°30'28''E. The monument stands on the north side of the road, while on the other side you'll find a waterhole under the road bridge. This area is fantastic for finches, with 10 species recorded. These include Pictorella Mannikin, Yellow-rumped Mannikin, Star Finch and Gouldian Finch. Finches often forage on bare ground around the monument where they perhaps can easily see the wind-swept grass seeds.

When grevilleas are flowering around the monument, you can expect plenty of honeyeaters. Look for Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Rufous-throated Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater and Silver-crowned Friarbird.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

In the grassy area around the monument, look for Horsfield's Bushlark, Brown Quail, Golden-headed Cisticola and Australian Bustard.

Small flocks of Spinifex Pigeons regularly arrive at the waterhole for a drink. In the vegetation surrounding the creek, look for Buff-sided Robin, Red-browed Pardalote, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Jacky Winter, Singing Honeyeater and Weebill.



Jacky Winter

East Baines River Crossing

This site is located 50km southwest of Timber Creek. GPS coordinates are 15°46'03''S and 130°01'35''E. This is another good spot for finches. You may come across Star Finch, Gouldian Finch and Pictorella Mannikin here. There are several channels/creek crossings in the area, check the ones that still hold some water.

In the wet season, the selection of waterbirds on the river includes White-necked Heron, Nankeen Night-Heron, Black Bittern, Great Egret, Pied Stilt and Black-fronted Dotterel. Occasionally, large flocks of Oriental Pratincoles are recorded.

Bushland birds include Masked Woodswallow, Shining Flycatcher, Paperbark Flycatcher, Rufous Songlark, Red-winged Parrot, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Rufous-throated Honeyeater and Striated Pardalote. At night, you may get Tawny Frogmouth, Southern Boobook and Bush Stone-curlew.

Saddle Creek Rest Area

This rest stop is located 60km east of the NT/WA border at GPS coordinates of 15°57'25''S and 129°33'43''E.

White-quilled Rock-Pigeons have been recorded in the rocks piled by the creek. Pictorella Mannikins come for a drink in large flocks. Other finches include Yellow-rumped Mannikin and Gouldian Finch. A Great Bowerbird's bower is located at the entrance track to the rest area. Other birds at this site include Chestnut-backed Button-quail, Banded Honeyeater, White-quilled Honeyeater, Little Woodswallow, Olive-backed Oriole and Red-backed Fairy-wren.

Victoria River Roadhouse

This iconic roadhouse is located on the banks of Victoria River, 190km southwest of Katherine. It is surrounded by the magnificent escarpment of the Judbarra Gregory National Park. Stunning sunrises and sunsets are adding to the charm of the landscape. The roadhouse offers a variety of accommodation from cabins to spacious caravan sites with all facilities. There is also a restaurant and, most importantly, fuel available 24/7. Helicopter flights operate from the roadhouse, showcasing the breathtaking Outback scenery of the Victoria River Valley.

Over 150 bird species have been recorded around the Victoria River Roadhouse. **Key species** are Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, Gouldian Finch and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Other birds of interest include Great Bowerbird, Little Corella, Grey-crowned Babbler, Banded Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Tree Martin, Masked Woodswallow, Shining Flycatcher and Barking Owl. Rarities include Oriental Plover, Little Curlew, Wood Sandpiper, Western Gerygone, Rufous Owl, Grey Falcon.

In search of birds, inspect the campground, an old bridge over the river and the boat ramp with the farmland and dam along the boat ramp access road.

Victoria River Roadhouse is the most accessible site in NT to see Purple-crowned Fairy-wren. Your best bet to find them is the boat ramp area. The birds demonstrate a preference to a narrow belt of pandanus and patches of cane grass along Victoria River. In the Wet, when the river is flowing high, the birds are moving to the eucalypts behind the pandanus. Because the birds are expected to dwell near the ground, birders may be surprised to observe Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens high in the gum trees at high water.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory



Purple-crowned Fairy-wren

To get to the boat ramp, from Victoria Hwy 500m west of the roadhouse turn into a farm road and drive 2.8km to the end of the road, where a carpark is provided. A short track leads to the concreted boat ramp. Focus your search first on the cane grasses around the carpark, later widen the scope and inspect the stands of pandanus 1km-2km along the waterholes in the riverbed.

The access road to the boat ramp runs through the farmland and is suitable for spotlighting. Nocturnal birds recorded here include Southern Boobook, Bush Stone-curlew and Spotted Nightjar. Look also for Red-chested Button-quails at night; they have been reported to pop out from the long grass onto the edge of the road. During the day, check out a small dam on the west side of the road. You may get Plumed Whistling-Duck, Hardhead, White-necked Heron, Azure Kingfisher, Common Sandpiper, Black-fronted Dotterel or an occasional Australian Pratincole, Little Curlew or Oriental Plover. However, we were not lucky; the only thing we spotted on this dam was a wallowing large water buffalo and Azure Kingfisher on a farm structure nearby.

The camping grounds were full of parrots. A large, noisy flock of Little Corellas was roosting in trees by the river. There were also Northern Rosellas, Red-winged Parrots, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos and Cockatiels checking out the gums at the campsite. The grounds were ruled by Great Bowerbirds. The birds were tame and cheeky, always ready to snatch something from the campers to adorn their bowers. We located one bower under a shrub near the cabins. A pair of Masked Lapwings

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

decided to nest in the middle of the caravan park, just where the rigs were turning. An Oriental Dollarbird had a tense face-off with an Australian Magpie over the water rights at a bird bath.



Oriental Dollarbird and Australian Magpie

The profusely flowering gum trees were bending under the load of Varied Lorikeets and Red-collared Lorikeets, accompanied by a variety of honeyeaters such as Banded Honeyeaters, Yellow-tinted Honeyeaters, White-quilled Honeyeaters, Golden-backed Honeyeaters and Rufous-throated Honeyeaters. One morning, a mixed group of finches and doves were foraging on the ground between the caravans. There were Gouldian Finches, Long-tailed Finches and Double-barred Finches in the group. At night, Barking Owls and Bush Stone-curlews were calling.

From the campsite, we took a walk on the old Victoria River Bridge which runs just underneath the new, high bridge. We observed a large group of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins with a few Yellow-rumped Mannikins in the mix, feeding in the long grasses near the bridge. In the riparian vegetation under the bridge, we sighted a couple of Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens. Common Sandpiper was perching on the stones in the middle of the river. Standing on the old bridge, we also spotted Nankeen Night-Heron, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Radjah Shelduck and Pied Heron. Black-breasted Buzzard was flying over the river and campgrounds.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

Victoria River Roadhouse features a long list of raptors, including Peregrine Falcon, Black Falcon, Square-tailed Kite and Wedge-tailed Eagle. There are also several records of Grey Falcon.

Timber Creek

This small Outback town (population: 70) is situated on Victoria Hwy (1) halfway between Katherine and the Western Australia border. This is the only significant settlement along this route. It sits on the doorstep of the western section of the Judbarra Gregory National Park. The town is famous for great fishing, scenic escarpment and old boab trees. It is also the finch capital of Australia. In winter and spring, if waiting patiently at a good waterhole, you may get 10-11 finch species.

Accommodation is available in two places: Timber Creek Hotel and Wirib Store. Both offer caravan parks, fuel and basic supplies.

Over 170 bird species have been recorded within 20km radius of Timber Creek. **Key species** are Gouldian Finch, Pictorella Mannikin, Yellow-rumped Mannikin, Star Finch, Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, Buff-sided Robin, Chestnut-backed Button-quail and Black-breasted Buzzard. Other birds of interest include Spinifex Pigeon, Azure Kingfisher, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Horsfield's Bushlark, Budgerigar, Red-browed Pardalote and Barking Owl. Among the rarities are Hooded Robin, Painted Finch, Oriental Plover, Black Bittern, Grey Goshawk and Grey Falcon.

Timber Creek Caravan Parks

There are two adjacent small caravan parks in Timber Creek: Wirib Tourist Park and Timber Creek Roadhouse. They offer good facilities, spacious shady campsites and a water-filled creek at the back, lined with dense pandanus and paperbarks. A full set of finches can sometimes be found in these caravan parks, without much effort. When the sprinklers are working at the roadhouse's and Wirib fuel station's front yards, finches can be observed without entering the caravan park grounds, which are accessible only to guests.

Buff-sided Robins are resident in the area, just search the creekline. Black Bittern, Azure Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher, Paperbark Flycatcher, Arafura Fantail and Black-bellied Crimson Finch can often be spotted in the pandanus thicket. When paperbarks are in bloom, honeyeaters become abundant. Look for Rufous-throated Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, White-quilled Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater and Grey-fronted Honeyeater. Large numbers of

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

Great Bowerbirds can be observed on both properties, front and back. Square-tailed Kites are often flying over the area. At night, you will hear or see the resident pair of Barking Owls and perhaps Southern Boobook and Tawny Frogmouth.



Buff-sided Robin on the grounds of Timber Creek Caravan Park

Hickey Beach Picnic Area

A track behind Timber Creek Council Office leads to a picnic area by a waterhole with a small beach. GPS coordinates are 15°39'28''S and 130°28'48''E. Finches may visit here for a drink, including Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Black-bellied Crimson Finch and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens live in the pandanus at the edge of the waterhole. Other birds at this site include Banded Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Silver-crowned Friarbird, Shining Flycatcher, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Pacific Baza and Collared Sparrowhawk.

Policemans Point

This site can be very productive for finches and other birdlife. It is located 4km west of the Timber Creek Hotel. GPS coordinates for the Policemans Point are 15°37'53''S and 130°28'32''E. To get there, turn off Victoria Hwy at GPS coordinates of 15°37'56''S and 130°26'44''E. Follow an unsealed track for 2km to the river. The road forks out; it is worth checking both forks of the track. The right fork leads to the Point where you'll find two picnic tables.



Star Finches

This site is good for finches, in particular for Star Finch and Gouldian Finch but the rarer *Picrorella Mannikin* and *Yellow-rumped Mannikin* are also found there. When coming for a drink, the birds land on the bushes that line the water. As the observation point is higher, it is easy to watch and photograph them.

When we arrived there on an overcast, gloomy afternoon, two *Black-necked Storks* were wading in shallow water on the opposite bank of the river and a single *Caspian Tern* was hunting over the river. This bird is a long-staying visitor in the area, so far away from the coast, and it has been reported over the years by many birders. We flushed *Black Bittern* from the riverine vegetation. A continuous stream of *Chestnut-breasted Mannikins* mixed with *Double-barred Finches* and *Black-bellied Crimson Finches* was passing us by on their way to the water. Other thirsty arrivals included *Cockatiels*, *Red-winged Parrots*, *Brown Honeyeaters*, *Yellow-tinted Honeyeaters*, *Rufous-throated Honeyeaters* and a couple of *Bar-breasted Honeyeaters*. In the surrounding woodland, we ticked off *Northern Rosella*, *Great Bowerbird*, *Masked Woodswallow*, *White-winged Triller* and *Jacky Winter*.

On the drive along the left fork to the river, we flushed *Chestnut-backed Button-quail* and a flock of *Brown Quails* from the grass. *Pandanus* near the river yielded *Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens*. *Radjah Shelducks*, *Black-fronted Dotterels* and single *Glossy Ibis* and *Common Sandpiper* were foraging in the riverbed. Other birds in this spot included *Pallid Cuckoo*, *Bush Stone-curlew*, *White-breasted Woodswallow*, *Shining Flycatcher*, *Australian Bustard* and *Spotted Harrier*.

Timber Creek Airstrip

This a very good spot for finches, where all 11 Northern Territory species have been recorded. The site is located 6km west of the Timber Creek Hotel, signposted from Victoria Hwy with an obscure sign depicting a plane. GPS coordinates at the turnoff are 15°37'21''S and 130°26'44''E. The birds like to perch on the boundary fence of the airstrip, so check the fenceline thoroughly. Look in particular for Star Finches and Gouldian Finches, but Pictorella Mannikin, Yellow-rumped Mannikin or even Painted Finch haven been reported from this site.

Horsfield's Bushlark, Brown Songlark and Brown Quail are common on the airstrip. Edges of tall grasses may produce Red-chested Button-quails. In the Wet, the airstrip is regularly visited by Oriental Plovers.

In woodland around the airstrip, search for Black-tailed Treecreeper, Weebill, Varied Lorikeet, Varied Sittella, Buff-sided Robin, Brush Cuckoo, Northern Rosella, Masked Woodswallow and White-browed Woodswallow.

Nackeroo Lookout



Nackeroo Lookout's view of Victoria River

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

The turnoff to the Nackeroo Lookout is located opposite the Timber Creek Airstrip, about 10m west of Timber Creek. Perched on the escarpment, the lookout is a fantastic spot to watch the sunrise or sundown over the vast plains.

A single-line, steep, unsealed track winds up over the range, to reach two lookouts and a pleasant picnic area at the top. The plateau is sparsely covered in woodland, with spinifex on the ground. During our journey in June 2022, it was the best place to find Gouldian Finches in the Timber Creek area. The 10-40 strong flocks of Gouldian Finches were feeding alongside Long-tailed and Masked Finches in the freshly burnt areas. An occasional Star Finch and Pictorella Mannikin could be seen among them.

The cream-flowering woollybutts were covered with masses of Masked Woodswallows. Black-faced Woodswallows and Little Woodswallows were also present. Orange-flowering woollybutts were a magnet for honeyeaters. We got Banded Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Rufous-throated Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater and Silver-crowned Friarbird.

Peregrine Falcon was flying along the escarpment. A pair of Bush Stone-curlews showed up at the picnic area. We also spotted a single Spinifex Pigeon there. The woodland habitat also produced Red-backed Kingfisher, Varied Sittella, Rainbow Bee-eater, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo and Rufous Whistler. On our way down, we flushed a Chestnut-backed Button-quail from the roadside.

Bradshaw Bridge

This impressive bridge spans the Victoria River 8km west of Timber Creek. It gives access to the military training grounds. You cannot drive over the bridge, but you can walk to the other side for birding, and you can fish from the bridge.

A large rest area is provided by the river in front of the bridge. GPS coordinates are 15°36'50''S and 130°24'27''E. This is a well-known Purple-crowned Fairy-wren spot. Look for them in the cane grass along the river on the right side of the bridge. A large colony of Fairy Martins lives under the bridge. Azure Kingfishers may be hunting along the riverbanks. Finches come to drink here, including Star Finch, Gouldian Finch and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. If you are lucky, you may spot Spinifex Pigeons walking down to the water.

Other birds in the area include Jacky Winter, Banded Honeyeater, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, Little Woodswallow, Tawny Grassbird, Australian Owlet-nightjar and Black-breasted Buzzard.

Judbarra Gregory National Park

Judbarra Gregory National Park, formerly known as Gregory National Park, is the second largest (1,300,000ha) national park in the Northern Territory. It is located along Victoria Hwy (1) in the transitional region between the tropical and semi-arid zones, approximately 360km south of Darwin and 160km west of Katherine. It features spectacular scenery of deep gorges carved into a vast, rugged escarpment country. Striking limestone formations can be found in the western section, with stands of mighty boabs scattered among them. Vegetation consists mostly of grassy open woodland, with some areas of monsoon rainforest.



Escarpment of Judbarra Gregory National Park

The Park is split into two geographically separate sections: the eastern section around the Victoria River Roadhouse, and the western section, south of Timber Creek. The fabulous Jasper Gorge lies between the two sections but is not part of the National Park. Victoria River which flows through the Park is packed with the saltwater crocodiles, be very careful while approaching the water on foot. Crocodile-watching tours can be booked from Timber Creek.

The Park is accessed from Victoria Hwy (1). Accommodation is available at the Victoria River Roadhouse and in Timber Creek. Limited campgrounds are scattered through the Park. Facilities in these places are basic (pit toilets, fireplaces) so you need to be self-sufficient. 4WD vehicles with high clearance are recommended (the

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

western section is the 4WD paradise). Further information is provided in the Park brochure, downloadable here:

https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/278442/judbarra-gregory-national-park-fact-sheet-and-map.pdf.

Over 190 bird species have been recorded in the Judbarra Gregory National Park.

Key species are Grey Falcon, Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Gouldian Finch, Pictorella Mannikin, Yellow-rumped Mannikin and Star Finch. Other birds of interest include Spinifex Pigeon, Chestnut-backed Button-quail, Banded Honeyeater, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Buff-sided Robin, Spotted Nightjar and Black-breasted Buzzard. Among the rarities are Flock Pigeon, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Hooded Robin and Fork-tailed Swift.

Sullivan Creek Campground



Apostlebird

This spacious campground is located on the banks of a permanent waterhole, 17km east of the Victoria River Roadhouse. Access is easy (100m) from Victoria Hwy (1). GPS coordinates at the turnoff are 15°35'14''S and 131°16'32''E. The site's basic facilities include toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. The place is known for its resident Black Bittern that often roosts in the clumps of pandanus. Around the water, look also for Azure Kingfisher, Pheasant Coucal, Oriental Dollarbird, Shining Flycatcher and Nankeen Night-Heron. Finches at this site include Gouldian Finch, Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Masked Finch and Long-tailed Finch.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

Other birds around Sullivan Creek Campground include Apostlebird, Red-winged Parrot, Varied Lorikeet, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, White-throated Gerygone, Spotted Nightjar and Tawny Frogmouth. Both Zitting and Golden-headed Cisticola have been recorded; the former is much rarer.

Joe Creek Picnic Area

This site is situated in the eastern section of the Park, 10km west of the Victoria River Roadhouse. Access is off Victoria Hwy (1) via a 2km-long unsealed track (often closed in the wet season). Facilities comprise a carpark, picnic tables and toilets. A 1.7km Nawulbinbin Circuit which starts from the carpark leads up and down the steep, rocky slopes to the base of the escarpment featuring the Aboriginal rock art. On your way, you'll pass many groups of striking *Livingstonia* palms growing on the scree slopes. While birding, stop every now and then and take in the view. The scenery of the surrounding foothills and the escarpment is simply spectacular.

The site is a natural amphitheatre. During our visit, we enjoyed a chorus of Blue-winged Kookaburras, echoing against the rock walls of the escarpment. As they finished, a Pied Butcherbird started its beautiful trill and each note echoed multiple times in the amphitheatre. Later, a duet of Pheasant Coucals joined in, providing the bass section. So, find a seat in the shade and listen to the concert of the day, perhaps even with the characteristic 'oomm, oomm' of White-quilled Rock-Pigeons.

As we explored the walk, we also recorded Spinifex Pigeon, Helmeted Friarbird, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Little Woodswallow, Rufous Whistler, Western Gerygone and White-winged Triller.

Escarpment Walk

This site is located in the eastern part of the Judbarra Gregory National Park, just a few kilometres west of the Victoria River Roadhouse. A spacious carpark is provided by Victoria Hwy. Escarpment Walk is a 3km return trail, moderate with some steep sections. This is the place to look for the escarpment specialists such as White-quilled Rock-Pigeon and Sandstone Shrike-thrush. The former usually roost on rock ledges and in crevasses. Little Woodswallows and Peregrine Falcons are regularly seen flying along the cliffs.

Before heading uphill, check the grassy, flat areas by the carpark and the bushes lining the dry creek bed. Finches often forage on the ground between the tussocks of grass. Look for Black-bellied Crimson Finch, Star Finch, Gouldian Finch, Long-tailed Finch and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. The most numerous will be Chestnut-breasted Mannikins. Other birds here include Pheasant Coucal, Brown Quail, Golden-headed Cisticola, Northern Rosella and Rufous Whistler. In the flowering

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

bushes by the creek, you may spot Banded Honeyeater, Northern Fantail, Weebill, Grey-crowned Babbler and Red-winged Parrot.



Northern Rosella in the rain

On the walk, besides the two escarpment specialists, look for Silver-backed Butcherbird, Red-backed Kingfisher, Spinifex Pigeon, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, White-winged Triller, Black-faced Woodswallow, White-throated Gerygone, Weebill and raptors. Wedge-tailed Eagle is nearly guaranteed. You'll also have a good chance to sight Grey Falcon or Black-breasted Buzzard.

If you stop in the carpark in the evening, look for Spotted Nightjars; they like to hunt in this area.

Old Victoria River Crossing

This site is situated in the eastern section of the Park. Access is via a short track about 6km west of the Victoria River Roadhouse. The last section of the track is terrible, 4WD only, or just walk it instead, it's not far. GPS coordinates at the turnoff from Victoria Hwy are 15°35'21''S and 131°06'07''E. The road sign directing to the crossing is obscure.

This is another site to look for Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens. Also, good numbers of Red-browed Pardalotes live here and can be heard calling from the vegetation by the riverbed.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

By the end of Dry, only small puddles remain in the riverbed. Flocks of finches come there to drink. You'll have a good chance to sight Star Finches and Yellow-rumped Mannikins. Black-fronted Dotterels and Common Sandpipers can often be seen feeding at the edges of the puddles.

In the woodland, look for Northern Rosella, Yellow-throated Miner, White-winged Triller, Leaden Flycatcher, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and Brown Quail. Black-breasted Buzzards were reported roosting in trees near the river.

Gregory's Tree



The historical Gregory's boab

The famous Gregory's boab grows in the Historical Reserve located about 15km west of Timber Creek. The old boab is a living monument to the exploration of the Australia's north. The north Australian expedition was led by Augustus Charles Gregory in 1855-56. The old boab marks the area of Gregory's camp and still bears the visible inscriptions noting the dates of arrival and departure from the camp.

To get there, turn north off Victoria Hwy (1) at the GPS position of 15°34'04''S and 130°21'60''E and follow an unsealed road for 4km. At the end of this road, you'll find a carpark, a picnic area and a start of a 500m walk to the monument tree.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

Birds around the picnic area include Grey-crowned Babbler, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Rufous-throated Honeyeater, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and Weebill.

On the walk, look for Spinifex Pigeon, Buff-sided Robin, Long-tailed Finch, Budgerigar and Brown Goshawk. We spotted a Black-breasted Buzzard roosting in the famous boab. There were also a couple of Little Woodswallows there.

Big Horse Creek Camping Area

This beautiful camping area, adorned with scattered groups of old boabs, is located in the western section of the Park, about 10km west of Timber Creek. GPS coordinates for the turnoff to this site from Victoria Hwy (1) are 15°35'51"S and 130°21'21"E. Facilities here include toilets, picnic tables, fireplaces and a boat ramp. During our visit in June 2022, we found Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens near the boat ramp, as well as Paperbark Flycatchers, Australian Yellow White-eyes, Black-bellied Crimson Finches and White-breasted Woodswallows. Through the campsites, we met numerous cheeky Great Bowerbirds and Grey-crowned Babblers. The latter maintain several large nests there. Buff-sided Robins were visible in the campground. We also got Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Brown Quail, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater and Red-browed Finch.

Find access to the river, available from several camping sites, to observe finches coming to drink, including Gouldian Finch, Star Finch and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Check the riverbanks; Great-billed Herons are occasionally reported from here.

Bullita Homestead Campground

This is the main campground in the western section of the Judbarra Gregory National Park, located 56km south of Timber Creek. To get there, about 10km east of Timber Creek turn south from Victoria Hwy (1) into an unsealed, rough Bullita Access Tk (on Google maps called just Bullita/Timber Ck); a 4WD will be needed. The road is closed Nov-Apr due to summer flooding. The turnoff is opposite the Durack Monument, at GPS coordinates of 15°44'16"S and 130°30'28"E.

The first 5km of this track can be very productive, particularly for finches that come to drink from a waterhole located near the turnoff from the highway. The next good stop is just 4km down the road, at the next creek crossing. You may get here finches again, often in large numbers, including Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Masked Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. In the surrounding bushes, look for Black-tailed Treecreeper, Red-browed Pardalote, Budgerigar, Banded Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Varied

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

Sittella and Rufous Songlark. From time to time, Crested Bellbirds and Hooded Robins are recorded. Grassbirds along the first 5km of the track include Brown Quail, Red-chested Button-quail and Horsfield's Bushlark. Among the likely raptors are Spotted Harrier, Brown Goshawk, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Falcon and Black Falcon. The latter likes to follow the roadside grassfires.

34km from Victoria Hwy, you'll see the turnoff to the Limestone Gorge, the main attraction of the western section of the National Park. This area is recommended only to the serious off-roaders, with proper 4WD equipment and experience. After an 8km drive, the landscape of unique limestone formations opens before you. Take a walk among them along the 0.6km return Calcite Flow Walk. Look for Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Spinifex Pigeon, Little Woodswallow, Buff-sided Robin, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Varied Sittella, Channel-billed Cuckoo and Wedge-tailed Eagle. Finches are found here in good numbers including Gouldian Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Yellow-rumped Mannikin.

The Bullita Homestead Campground is situated 42km down the Bullita Access Tk on the banks of East Baines River near the historic Bullita Homestead. Site facilities consist of toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. Birding is good along the riverbed. Among the common birds are Oriental Dollarbird, Great Bowerbird, Paperbark Flycatcher, Cockatiel, Shining Flycatcher and Olive-backed Oriole. A good selection of honeyeaters includes Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, White-gaped Honeyeater, White-quilled Honeyeater and Rufous-throated Honeyeater. Nocturnal birds include Bush Stone-curlew, Southern Boobook, Australian Owlet-nightjar and Nankeen Night-Heron.

Jasper Gorge

This beautiful gorge is not part of the Judbarra Gregory National Park however it is adjacent to the eastern border of its western section. It is reached via an unsealed Buchanan Hwy. The turnoff from Victoria Hwy (1) is located 62km west of Victoria River Roadhouse and 27km east of Timber Creek. After 48km on a reasonable dirt road, you'll reach a permanent waterhole in the Gorge. Campsites are provided but there are no facilities. Be self-sufficient with everything.

Over 120 bird species have been recorded in Jasper Gorge. **Key species** are Gouldian Finch, Pictorella Mannikin, Yellow-rumped Mannikin, Star Finch, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Purple-crowned Fairy-wren and Spotted Nightjar. Other birds of interest include Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Red-browed Pardalote, Azure Kingfisher, Brush Cuckoo, Shining Flycatcher, White-throated Gerygone and Black-breasted Buzzard. Rarities include Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Crimson Chat, Grey Falcon and Square-tailed Kite.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

The access road (Buchanan Hwy) is well-known for the presence of finches, particularly at the end of the Dry when only shallow waterholes are left at its multiple creek crossings and birds come in large flocks in search of water. Mind it, if you come too late in the Dry, there may be no water left and no birds. We experienced it at one of our visits there. Listed below are the most productive stops along the road.

Buchanan Hwy at 15°45'17"S and 130°38'50"E

This spot is a creek crossing about 1km south of the turnoff from Victoria Hwy. There are usually several waterholes there. Ten finch species have been recorded in this location, including Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Spinifex Pigeons regularly come for a drink. It is also a good spot for Red-browed Pardalotes.



Yellow-rumped Mannikin

Masked Woodswallows arrive in huge flocks in early winter when eucalypts start to bloom. Other birds here include Jacky Winter, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater, Australian Bustard, Horsfield's Bushlark, Budgerigar, Varied Lorikeet and Hooded Robin (rare). Several rare raptors have been reported from the area including Grey Falcon, Black Falcon, Square-tailed Kite and Black-breasted Buzzard. Brown Goshawks may sit motionlessly in the bushes near the water, waiting for their prey.

Buchanan Hwy at 15°46'48''S and 130°39'17''E

The site is located 4.5km from Victoria Hwy. The waterholes are on both sides of the road. Bird composition is similar to that of the previous site. Large flocks of Budgerigars favour this spot. Pictorella Mannikins were recorded in huge numbers (500-1,000 birds). A pair of Hooded Robins is nesting near the creek. Look also for Little Button-quail, Little Woodswallow, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Rufous Songlark, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Singing Honeyeater, Varied Lorikeet, Spotted Harrier and Brown Goshawk.

Buchanan Hwy at 15°50'42''S and 130°38'21''E

This site is called Skull Creek Crossing and is located 9km from Victoria Hwy. The creek bed is quite deep, allowing several waterholes to be formed in dry season. These are visible from the road. Ten species of finches have been recorded here, including Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Large numbers of Cockatiels, Diamond Doves and Bar-shouldered Doves come to drink. Other birds at this spot include Brolga, Red-browed Pardalote, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Pallid Cuckoo and Sacred Kingfisher.



Buchanan Hwy at Skull Creek crossing

Jasper Gorge Area

The gorge and its drainage lines support a variety of finches; remarkably all 11 NT species have been recorded here. Painted Finches regularly come to drink from the waterhole, as well as the other desirable species: Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and Yellow-rumped Mannikin. Azure Kingfishers, Shining Flycatchers and Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens can be found along the watercourses. The flowering paperbark trees attract nectar-feeders such as Banded Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Silver-crowned Friarbird, Varied Lorikeet and Red-collared Lorikeet.

White-quilled Rock-Pigeon reaches its southern range limit here. Sandstone Shrike-thrush and Spinifex Pigeon can also be found in the area. Other birds include Red-winged Parrot, Great Bowerbird, Oriental Dollarbird, Grey-crowned Babbler, Little Button-quail, White-throated Gerygone and Pied Butcherbird. Nocturnal birds include Spotted Nightjar, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Southern Boobook and Tawny Frogmouth.

A large camp of little red flying-foxes live by the waterhole which is also home to several freshwater crocodiles.

Keep River National Park

The 57,000ha Keep River National Park sits off Victoria Hwy (1) right on the NT/WA border, 470km west of Katherine. It may be a small Park, but it contains a diversity of landscapes including sandstone ridges (reminiscent of the Bungle Bungle rock formations), so it is sometimes referred to as 'Baby Bungles National Park'. There are two camping sites in the Park, with facilities that include drinking water (usable after boiling), toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. Several fantastic walks lead to magnificent lookouts and impressive Aboriginal art. A Visitor Centre operates at the Cockatoo Lagoon near the Park entrance. Further information and a site map can be downloaded here: https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/200100/keep-river-national-park-fact-sheet.pdf.

Over 170 bird species have been recorded in the Keep River National Park. **Key species** are White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Gouldian Finch, Spinifex Pigeon and Little Woodswallow. Other birds of interest include Silver-backed Butcherbird, Banded Honeyeater, Golden-backed Honeyeater, White-quilled Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Little Button-quail, Varied Lorikeet, Australian Bustard, Masked Finch and Square-tailed Kite. Rarities include Yellow Chat, Swinhoe's Snipe, Pictorella Mannikin, Hardhead and Grey Goshawk.



Rock formations at Keep River National Park

Cockatoo Lagoon

Masses of waterbirds congregate on this waterlily-covered lagoon during the Dry. The most common are Plumed Whistling-Ducks, Magpie Geese, Pacific Black Ducks and Hardheads. Look also for Brolga, Black-necked Stork, Azure Kingfisher, Nankeen Night-Heron, Pied Heron, Glossy Ibis and Baillon's Crake. A rarity at the Top End, Dusky Moorhen (first sighting in 2015), is breeding on the lagoon. Take a walk around the lagoon, looking for finches arriving for a drink. These may include Gouldian Finch, Star Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Yellow-rumped Mannikin and Pictorella Mannikin. A pair of Australian Hobbies have been nesting for years on a tower near the Visitor Centre. Other birds around this site include Spinifex Pigeon, Eastern Koel, Northern Rosella, Green Oriole, Oriental Dollarbird, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Brown Songlark, Bar-breasted Honeyeater and Black-breasted Buzzard.

Ginger's Hill Walk

This site is located 2km north of the Cockatoo Lagoon. The short walk, 200m return, leads to a stone structure typical for the Aboriginal works in this region. Along the trail, look for Silver-backed Butcherbird, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Little Woodswallow, Long-tailed Finch and Helmeted Friarbird.

Goorrandalng Campground

This place, also spelled Gurrandalng, is located 18km from the Park entrance at GPS coordinates of 15°52'27''S and 129°03'08''E. The basic site facilities include picnic tables, pit toilets and fire rings.



White-quilled Rock-Pigeon at the campsite

This is a very good spot for White-quilled Rock-Pigeons. They inhabit a big pile of rocks just in the middle of the camping area. You may even experience a Rock-Pigeon flying over your head to reach crevices in the rock.

A Great Bowerbird's bower is located in the camp. Look also for Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Varied Sittella, Long-tailed Finch, White-quilled Honeyeater, Pied Butcherbird and Wedge-tailed Eagle. At night, you may hear Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth and plenty of Bush Stone-curlews.

Check also the riverbed and the surrounding bushland a few hundred metres from the campground. Little Button-quails are often recorded there. If there are puddles of water, Gouldian Finches will come to drink. Other birds in this area include Nankeen Night-Heron, Rufous Whistler, Paperbark Flycatcher, Olive-backed Oriole and Bar-breasted Honeyeater.

Australian Good Birding Guide: Northern Territory

A 2km-long return walk starts from this campsite and runs among the 'Baby Bungles' rocks. Look for White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Spinifex Pigeon, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Little Woodswallow, Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Gerygone, Dusky Honeyeater and Helmeted Friarbird.

Jarnem Campground

The campground is located in the northern part of the Park, 32km from the entrance. GPS coordinates are 15°45'43''S and 129°05'56''E. Basic facilities include picnic tables, pit toilets and fire rings. The site offers a 7km-long walk that will take you to the lookout revealing stunning views of the area. Along this trail, look for White-quilled Rock-Pigeons, Spinifex Pigeon and Little Woodswallow.

The flowering grevilleas around the campground may yield Banded Honeyeater, White-gaped Honeyeater, White-quilled Honeyeater and Silver-crowned Friarbird. At night, listen and look for Spotted Nightjar, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Southern Boobook and Tawny Frogmouth.

Other birds include Gouldian Finch, Masked Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Jacky Winter, Red-backed Kingfisher, Red-browed Pardalote, Purple-backed Fairy-wren and Red-backed Fairy-wren.