

>> BIRDS OF NORTH WARD AND CASTLE HILL (1)

Several walking tracks are accessible for visitors up to the top of Castle Hill. Take a pair of binoculars and keep your eyes open for the many species of bird that can be seen on the walk and at the top of the hill.



The Blue Faced Honey Eater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*) can often be seen on low tree branches and in the gardens. Its favourite is the flowering palms.



The Pheasant coucal (*Centropus phasianus*) has a beautiful "whirring" call that is taken up by all the birds in the areas. It is a common visitor to Castle Hill so listen out for the call as it will lead you to the low flying bird.



The Yellow Honey Eater (*Lichenostomus flavus*) is often seen at the flowers of flowering Eucalypts and Banksias.



The Yellow Fig Bird (*Sphecotheres viridis*) has a loud call and both males and females can regularly be seen around Townsville.

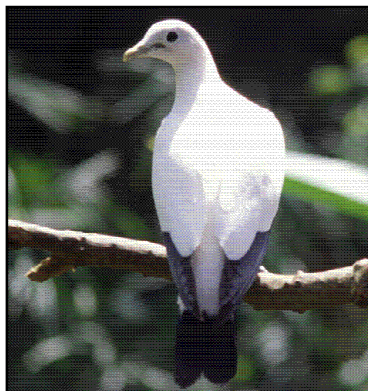
All photos courtesy of Ian Montgomery
(www.birdway.com.au)

»» BIRDS OF NORTH WARD AND CASTLE HILL (2)

Many of these species are diurnally active and can be seen just by walking down the local streets. Honey eaters feed on nectar from flowering trees and bushes, while other species are drawn to fruiting trees such as the sea almond tree and the palms. Others, such as the bee-eaters are there to feed on the insects that fill the tropical air.



The Great Bower bird (*Chlamydera nuchalis*) makes elaborate bowers to attract the female. He collects an array of coloured pieces to place around the bower.



Torrisian Pigeons (*Ducula bicolor*) are a breeding summer migrant to Australia and can be seen in the thicker growth of trees along the streets and in gardens.
(Photo from Greg Calvert)



The Noisy Friar Bird (*Philemon corniculatus*) is often found by water points but can also be seen eating the berries from fruiting palms.



The rainbow Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) are found in pairs or groups and can be seen throughout the day on the telephone lines.

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