

»» BIRDS OF THE TOWNSVILLE PALMETUM

The Palmetum is another botanical garden that has created a vast array of habitat for many native species of bird, both those that migrate and those that do not. Its creation of different 'environments' has allowed species from different areas to be seen together.



The Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) is a staunch defender of nesting sites and can become aggressive when people unwittingly interfere.



The Helmeted Friar Bird (*Philemon buceroides*) can be heard with its harsh metallic whistles and cackles as it flits between trees collecting food.



The Blue Winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*) is a common visitor to the Palmetum. Along with the Laughing kookaburra they are Australian Icons.



The rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) is a colourful bird that is often seen sitting on the telephone and electricity lines occasionally darting down to catch insects in mid-flight.

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

