



Kingfisher Bay Resort
Fraser Island

FACT FILE

BIRDS OF FRASER

QUEENSLAND: Fraser Island provides a diverse range of habitats and it is only through the conservation of these habitats that the island can retain its rich abundance of bird life.

The best times to observe birds are early mornings after sunrise and mid to late afternoons. More than 384 recorded bird species visit its shores annually - a number of which are considered rare or vulnerable and others which are subject to international bird migratory treaties.

The Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*) is one of the rarest and least commonly sighted birds on the island. This green and yellow ground-dwelling bird lives among coastal heath sedges. It constructs a nest at or near ground level from surrounding vegetation and usually lays 3-4 eggs.

Red and Green King Parrots (*Alisterus scapularis*) can be seen eating nuts, berries and fruits. Other brightly coloured Parrots and Lorikeets commonly observed flying high amongst the tree tops or feeding on nectar or blossoms are the gregarious Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) and the Scaly-breasted Lorikeets (*T. chlorolepidotus*).

Nectar-feeding birds include the Honeyeater species are identifiable by their long thin, curved beaks. White-cheeked Honeyeaters (*Phylidonyris nigra*), Lewin's Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga lewinii*) and the smallest of the Honeyeaters, the richly-coloured Scarlet Honeyeaters (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*) are common all year.

The male Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) develops a beautiful song voice during the breeding season from August to December.

Male Mistletoe Birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) also have a distinctive, clear song and can be identified by their glossy, blue-black and scarlet plumage amongst mistletoe plants.

Tiny Red-backed Fairy-wrens (*Malurus melanocephalus*) can be spotted moving quickly through the dense tea tree shrubs and surrounding bush. During the breeding season from August to February, the male red-backed fairy-wren develops prominent red and black plumage to attract his mate who retains a plainer brown plumage all year.

Kingfisher Bay Resort is named after the migratory Kingfishers that visit the area in summer to nest (often in termite mounds in the trees) and breed. The Kookaburra, the largest kingfisher, does not have the brilliant blues of the smaller Forest Kingfisher (*Halcyon macleayi*) or the green of the Sacred Kingfisher (*H. sancta*).



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The Azure Kingfisher (*Ceyx azurea*) has a rich, glossy blue plumage on its back and sides and an orange or buff-coloured chest. This small bird appears full of character as it sits on low hanging branches or roots, frequently giving out a shrill squeak before darting off to catch fish.

The Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) - whose colours become iridescent as the sun catches them - can sometimes be mistaken for a Kingfisher. Rainbow Bee-eaters make their nests by tunnelling into sand dunes and creek banks and catch insects - including bees and wasps - on the wing before returning to their perch to remove the sting from their prey before swallowing them.

The whip-like call of the aptly named Eastern Whipbird (*Psophodes olivaceus*) is often the only sign of this secretive bird, as it spends most of its time camouflaged among fallen logs and leaves foraging for insects. Also notoriously difficult to spot is the Brown Quail (*Coturnix australis*) as it tends to blend in with the wet swampy areas and banksia thickets where it traditionally searches for food.

Nocturnal birds - such as Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) and Owls (*Tyto sp.*) - can sometimes be observed at night, swooping silently down from the trees to catch prey. During the day, the Tawny Frogmouth roosts on branches - its mottled grey and brown plumage helping it to perfectly resemble a dead branch or stump.

Eighteen birds of prey species have been observed on Fraser Island. One of the largest of these raptors is the White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) which has a wing span of two metres or more. Brahminy Kites (*Haliastur indus*) with their distinctive and contrasting chestnut brown and white feathers are also common. The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus* - commonly known as the Fish Hawk) uses its talons to snatch prey from the water. Because of river pollution by toxic pesticides, Osprey numbers in some areas are declining on the mainland, but they are still quite common on Fraser Island.

Many wading birds are seen on the island and some migrate from as far away as Siberia. The largest migratory wader, the Eastern Curlew, (*Numenius madagascariensis*) can be seen from August to March and Whimbrels (*N. phaeopus*) from September to April. A resident wader, the Pied Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus longirostris*); can often be seen at low tide looking for bivalve molluscs.

Sea birds are often seen diving into the ocean after fish. Brown Boobies (*Sula dactylatra*) and Australasian Gannets (*Morus serrator*) often catch fish from around the jetty at Kingfisher Bay. Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax spp.*) and darters (*Anhinga melanogaster*) can also be spotted on yacht masts and branches drying their wings.



BIRD SIGHTINGS INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

MOUND-BUILDERS

Australian Brush-turkey

QUAILS AND PHEASANTS

Brown Quail
King Quail

GEESE, SWANS AND DUCKS

Slack Swan
Green Pygmy-goose
Australian Wood Duck
Musk Duck
Pacific Black Duck
Wandering Whistling-Duck
*Mallard
Chestnut Teal
Gray Teal
Hardhead

GREBES

Australasian Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe

PENGUINS

Little Penguin

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS

Black-winged Petrel
Blue Petrel
Cape Petrel
Gould's Petrel
Great-winged Petrel
Kerguelen Petrel
Mottled Petrel
Northern Giant-Petrel
Providence Petrel
Southern Fulmar Petrel
Southern Giant-Petrel

Tahiti Petrel
White-headed Petrel
Antarctic Prion
Broad-billed Prion
Fairy Prion
Salvin's Prion
Slender-billed Prion
Black Petrel
Westland Petrel
Buller's Shearwater
Flesh-footed Shearwater
Fluttering Shearwater
Hutton's Shearwater
Little Shearwater
Short-tailed Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater
Wedge-tailed Shearwater

ALBATROSSES

Black-browed Albatross
Buller's Albatross
Grey-headed Albatross
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross
Shy Albatross
Sooty Albatross
Wandering Albatross

Storm Petrels

Wilson's Storm-Petrel
White-bellied Storm-Petrel

TROPICBIRDS

Red-tailed Tropicbird
White-tailed Tropicbird

GANNETS AND BOOBIES

Australasian Gannet
Masked Booby
Brown Booby

DARTERS

Darter

CORMORANTS

Little Pied Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Great Cormorant

PELICANS

Australian Pelican

FRIGATEBIRDS

Great Frigatebird
Lesser Frigatebird

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS

White-faced Heron
Little Egret
Eastern Reef Egret
White necked Heron
Great-billed Heron
Great Egret
Intermediate Egret
Cattle Egret
Striated Heron
Nankeen Night Heron
Black Bittern

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

Australian White Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Royal Spoonbill

STORKS

Slack-necked Stork

OSPREY

Osprey



BIRD SIGHTINGS INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

KITES, GOSHAWKS, EAGLES AND HARRIERS

- Pacific Baza
- Black-shouldered Kite
- Black-breasted Buzzard
- Black Kite
- Whistling Kite
- Brahminy Kite
- White-bellied Sea-eagle
- Swamp Harrier
- Brown Goshawk
- Grey Goshawk
- Collared Sparrowhawk
- Red Goshawk
- Wedge-tailed Eagle
- Little Eagle

FALCONS

- Brown Falcon
- Australian Hobby
- Peregrine Falcon
- Nankeen Kestrel

CRANES

- Brolga

RAILS, CRAKES, SWAMPHENS AND COOTS

- Buff-banded Rail
- Lewin's Rail
- Baillon's Crake
- Spotless Crake
- Purple Swamphen
- Dusky Moorhen
- Eurasian Coot

BUTTON-QUAILS

- Red-backed Button-quail
- Little Button-quail

- Painted Button-quail
- Black-breasted Button-quail

CURLEWS, SANDPIPERS, SNIPES AND GODWITS

- Latham's Snipe
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Little Curlew
- Whimbrel
- Eastern Curlew
- Marsh Sandpiper
- Common Greenshank
- Terek Sandpiper
- Common Sandpiper
- Grey-tailed Tattler
- Wandering Tattler
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Great Knot
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Red-necked Stint
- Broad-billed Sandpiper
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

STONE-CURLEWS

- Bush Stone-curlew
- Beach Stone-curlew

OYSTERCATCHERS

- Pled Oystercatcher
- Sooty Oystercatcher

STILTS AND AVOCETS

- Black-winged Stilt
- Red-necked Avocet

LAPWINGS, PLOVERS AND DOTTERELS

- Double-banded Plover
- Greater Sand Plover
- Grey Plover
- Pacific Golden Plover
- Red-capped Plover
- Ringed Plover
- Black-fronted Dotterel
- Masked Lapwing
- Lesser Sand Plover
- Oriental Plover

PRATINCOLES

- Oriental Pratincole

GULLS AND TERNS

- Great Skua
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Pacific Gull
- Kelp Gull
- Silver Gull
- Artic Tern
- Black-naped Tern
- Bridled Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Common Tern
- Crested Tern
- Gull-billed Tern
- Lesser Crested Tern
- Little Tern
- Roseate Tern
- Sooty Tern
- Whiskered Tern
- White-fronted Tern
- White-winged Black Tern
- Common Noddy
- Black Noddy



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BIRD SIGHTINGS INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

Grey Ternlet
White Tern

PIGEONS AND DOVES

*Rock Dove
White-headed Pigeon
*Spotted Turtledove
Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Emerald Dove
Common Bronzewing
Brush Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon
Bar-shouldered Dove
Peaceful Dove
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
Superb Fruit-Dove
Wompoo Fruit-Dove
Topknot Pigeon

Cockatoos and Parrots

Galah
Glossy Black-Cockatoo
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Cockatiel
Rainbow Lorikeet
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Little Lorikeet
Australian King-Parrot
Red-winged Parrot
Pale-headed Rosella
Budgerigar
Turquoise Parrot
Ground Parrot

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