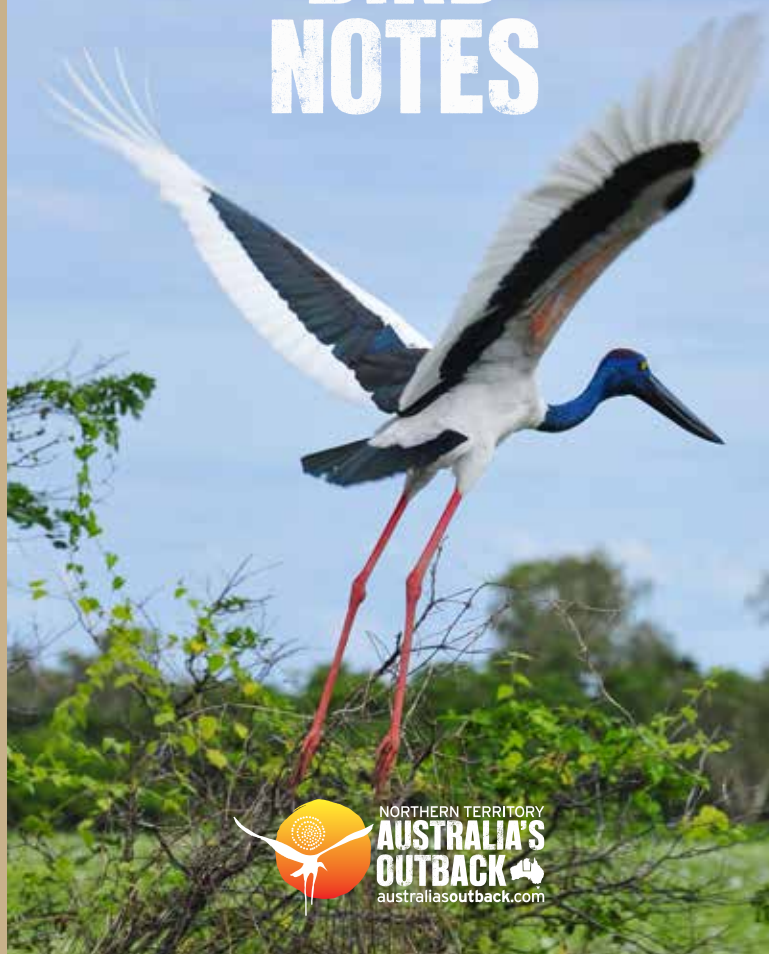


# NORTHERN TERRITORY



# BIRD NOTES



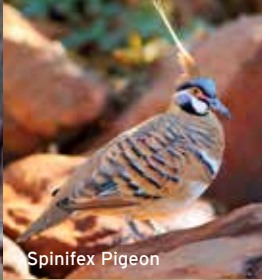
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
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Gouldian Finch



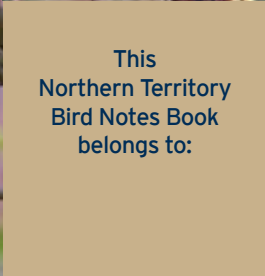
Blue-Winged Kookaburra



Spinifex Pigeon



Banded Fruit Dove



Azure Kingfisher



Rainbow Pitta



Tawny Frogmouth



White-bellied Sea-Eagle



Comb-crested Jacana



Galahs



Australasian Darter

# THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

boasts almost half of all bird species found in Australia and is home to two distinct and contrasting regions, the Top End and the Red Centre. This means that the range of species is impressively diverse.

This checklist, supplied by the President of Savannah Guides, details all species currently recorded in the NT.

## NORTHERN TROPICS

The 'Top End' is home to vast wetlands, coastal floodplains, monsoonal rainforest, savannah woodland, impressive waterfalls and soaring escarpments. Kakadu National Park, to the east of Darwin, is Australia's largest at around 20,000 sq km, and is home to more than 280 species. The wider Top End boasts almost 400 species in total, five of which are endemic. There are many potential highlights for Finch, Red Goshawk, Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeon, Banded Fruit-Dove, Hooded Parrot, White-lined Honeyeater and White-throated Grasswren. The Top End has two seasons. The weather is drier and cooler between May and September, when massive congregations of birds can be seen around receding water sources. The tropical summer months bring some amazing lightning shows and following the rains in December-February, the rivers, floodplains and billabongs teem with life.

### TOP BIRDING SPOTS

- **Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve:** an outstanding area of forest, wetland and floodplain habitats just an hour from Darwin. Highlights include Rainbow Pitta, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove and large concentrations of waterbirds.
- **Mary River National Park:** cruise the river and search the banks for birds such as Azure Kingfisher and Australasian Darter.
- **Mamukala Wetlands:** located in Kakadu National Park, Mamukala Wetlands and Bird Hide offers the spectacle of thousands of Magpie Geese and other waterbirds congregating to feed.
- **Pine Creek:** this small town on the junction of the Stuart and Kakadu Highways is a reliable place to find the beautiful and endemic Hooded Parrot.
- **Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge):** visit Nitmiluk National Park or cruise the Katherine River. Chestnut-backed Buttonquail is a rare resident here.
- **Timber Creek:** located between Katherine and the Kimberley, Timber Creek affords rich grassy plains and escarpments ideal for searching for Grey fronted Honeyeater.

## SOUTHERN DESERTS

Better known as the 'Red Centre' or 'Central Australia', this part of the Northern Territory rarely sees rain and has a very even climate. The winter months see warm days and cool nights, and summer brings higher temperatures. There is a surprising amount of water to be found in this region, largely due to the worlds' largest and deepest underground fresh water aquifer, the Great Artesian Basin, being here. The species found in the Red Centre are very different from those in the Top End and can sometimes be harder to locate. It is well worth the effort as some of Australia's most exciting birds can be found, including Orange Chat, Dusky Grasswren, Spinifex Pigeon, Bourke's Parrot, Western Bowerbird and Painted Firetail.

### TOP BIRDING SPOTS

- **Palm Valley:** this ancient botanical garden located in the Finke Gorge National Park is home to Rainbow Bee-Eater and Port Lincoln Parrot, among many other species.
- **Whistle Duck Waterhole:** part of a greater network of waterholes, Whistle Duck is a serene spot for birdwatching.
- **Kings Canyon:** surrounded by the soaring red walls of the canyon, scan the skies for Wedge-tailed Eagle.
- **Ilpapa Ponds:** a great spot for local waterbirds.
- **Boggy Hole:** part of the oldest river in the world, Boggy Hole provides a permanent water source for bird life. Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Masked Woodswallow and Brown Honeyeater can be found here.
- **Newhaven Sanctuary:** with 262,000 hectares of protected land in the Great Sandy Desert, this site is home to more than 160 species of birds, including 10 threatened species.

We hope this checklist will inspire you to visit Australia's Northern Territory to see some of its amazing bird life for yourself.



## PIGEONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

[illegible]

## FRIGATEBIRDS TO SPOONBILLS

[illegible]

Square-tailed Kite *Lophochictinia isura*  
Black-breasted Buzzard *Hamirostra melanosternon*  
Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*  
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur spheurnurus*  
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*  
Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*  
Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*  
Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*  
Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*  
Red Goshawk *Erythrorhynchus radiatus*  
Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*  
Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides*  
Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*  
Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*  
Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*  
Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*  
Black Falcon *Falco subniger*  
Pied-billed Grebe *Podiceps podiceps*

**TOTALS**

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*  
Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*  
White-browed Crake *Amauornis molucca*  
Pale-vented Bush-hen *Amauornis moluccana*  
Black-tailed Native-hen *Tribonyx ventralis*  
Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*  
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*  
Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*  
Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*  
Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*  
Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*  
Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*  
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*  
Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*  
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*  
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*  
Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*  
Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

**TOTALS**

## PLOVERS TO SANDPIPERS

[illegible]

## SANDPIPERS TO TERNS

[illegible]

## TERNS TO CUCKOOS

|                                                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Lesser Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Black-tailed Gull <i>Larus crassirostris</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Silver Gull <i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>                         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Galah <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Long-billed Corella <i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Little Corella <i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>                  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo <i>Cacatua galerita</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Rainbow Lorikeet <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Varied Lorikeet <i>Psitteutes versicolor</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Red-winged Parrot <i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Princess Parrot <i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Northern Rosella <i>Platycercus venustus</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Australian Ringneck <i>Barnardius zonarius</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Mulga Parrot <i>Psephotus varius</i>                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Hooded Parrot <i>Psephotus dissimilis</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Bourke's Parrot <i>Neopsephotus bourkii</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Scarlet-chested Parrot <i>Neophema splendida</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Night Parrot <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Pheasant Coucal <i>Centropus phasianinus</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Eastern Koel <i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Channel-billed Cuckoo <i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo <i>Chalcites basalis</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

## CUCKOOS TO FAIRY-WRENS

|                                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Black-eared Cuckoo <i>Chalcites osculans</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Little Bronze-Cuckoo <i>Chalcites minutillus</i>     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Pallid Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Fan-tailed Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Brush Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Oriental Cuckoo <i>Cuculus optatus</i>               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Rufous Owl <i>Ninox rufa</i>                         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Barking Owl <i>Ninox connivens</i>                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Southern Boobook <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Masked Owl <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Eastern Barn Owl <i>Tyto javanica</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Eastern Grass Owl <i>Tyto longimembris</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Azure Kingfisher <i>Ceyx azureus</i>                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Little Kingfisher <i>Ceyx pusilla</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Blue-winged Kookaburra <i>Dacelo leachii</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Forest Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus macleayi</i>        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Red-backed Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygus</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Sacred Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Collared Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus chloris</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Dollarbird <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Rainbow Pitta <i>Pitta iris</i>                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-browed Treecreeper <i>Climacteris affinis</i>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Black-tailed Treecreeper <i>Climacteris melanura</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Spotted Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus maculatus</i>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Western Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus guttatus</i>    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Great Bowerbird <i>Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis</i>      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Splendid Fairy-wren <i>Malurus splendens</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Purple-crowned Fairy-wren <i>Malurus coronatus</i>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

[illegible]

## 16

[illegible]

## 17

## BABLERS TO WOODSWALLOWS

|                                                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Grey-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-browed Babbler <i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Chestnut-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus ruficeps</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Cinnamon Quail-thrush <i>Cinclosoma cinnamomeum</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush <i>Cinclosoma castaneothorax</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Chirruping Wedgebill <i>Psophodes cristatus</i>                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Chiming Wedgebill <i>Psophodes occidentalis</i>                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Varied Sittella <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Ground Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina maxima</i>                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina papuensis</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Cicadabird <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>                         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-winged Triller <i>Lalage sueurii</i>                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Varied Triller <i>Lalage leucomela</i>                          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Crested Shrike-tit <i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Mangrove Golden Whistler <i>Pachycephala melanura</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Grey Whistler <i>Pachycephala simplex</i>                       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Rufous Whistler <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-breasted Whistler <i>Pachycephala lanioides</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Little Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Sandstone Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla woodwardi</i>          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Grey Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Crested Bellbird <i>Oreocica gutturalis</i>                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Australasian Figbird <i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Yellow Oriole <i>Oriolus flavocinctus</i>                       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Olive-backed Oriole <i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-breasted Woodswallow <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Masked Woodswallow <i>Artamus personatus</i>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| White-browed Woodswallow <i>Artamus superciliosus</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

## WOODSWALLOWS TO ROBINS

|                                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Black-faced Woodswallow <i>Artamus cinereus</i>      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Little Woodswallow <i>Artamus minor</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Black Butcherbird <i>Cracticus quoyi</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Grey Butcherbird <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Pied Butcherbird <i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Australian Magpie <i>Cracticus tibicen</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Grey Currawong <i>Strepera versicolor</i>            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Spangled Drongo <i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Arafura Fantail <i>Rhipidura dryas</i>               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Mangrove Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura phasiana</i>      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Northern Fantail <i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Willie Wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Australian Raven <i>Corvus coronoides</i>            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Little Crow <i>Corvus bennetti</i>                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Torresian Crow <i>Corvus orru</i>                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Broad-billed Flycatcher <i>Myiagra ruficollis</i>    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Leaden Flycatcher <i>Myiagra rubecula</i>            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Shining Flycatcher <i>Myiagra alecto</i>             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Restless Flycatcher <i>Myiagra inquieta</i>          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Black-faced Monarch <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Magpie-lark <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Apostlebird <i>Struthidea cinerea</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Jacky Winter <i>Microeca fascians</i>                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Lemon-bellied Flycatcher <i>Microeca flavigaster</i> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Red-capped Robin <i>Petroica goodenovii</i>          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Hooded Robin <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Mangrove Robin <i>Peneonthe pulverulenta</i>         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Buff-sided Robin <i>Poecilodryas cerviniventris</i>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

## BUSLARK TO MANNIKINS

[illegible]

## SPARROWS TO GOLDFINCH

[illegible]

# OTHER INFORMATION

## USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES

[www.australiasoutback.com/birdwatching](http://www.australiasoutback.com/birdwatching)

Birds and birding information from Tourism NT, including birding locations, accommodation, events and a round-up of the best deals on birdwatching breaks.

[www.environment.gov.au/parks/kakadu](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/kakadu)

This government site has information about Kakadu National Park and its birds – more than 280 species.

[www.ntbirds.net](http://www.ntbirds.net)

Niven McCrie's website Birds of the Northern Territory covers the Top End, including where to bird, useful books and checklists.

[www.savannah-guides.com.au](http://www.savannah-guides.com.au)

A network of professional tour guides with a collective in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural assets of the tropical savannahs of Northern Territory and other regions. A very useful guide for anyone wanting to source their own guide in parts of the NT.

[www.territorydiscoveries.com/experiences/bird-watching](http://www.territorydiscoveries.com/experiences/bird-watching)

Territory Discoveries offers accommodation and birding tours in the Top End and central Northern Territory.

## BOOKS

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia by Ken Simpson and Nicolas Day (seventh edition, Christopher Helm, 2004). Call 020 8881 0550 or visit [www.birdwatch.co.uk](http://www.birdwatch.co.uk) to order.

Finding Birds in Darwin, Kakadu and the Top End by Niven McCrie and James Watson (second edition, NT Birding, 2009; order at [www.ntbirds.net](http://www.ntbirds.net)).

Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds by Les Christidis and Walter E Boles (second edition, CSIRO Publishing, 2008).

# TOPOGRAPHY

The diagram below indicates the main bird parts and feather tracts.

