



BIRDING IN THE BURDEKIN

LILLIESMERE LAGOON

Near the Kalamia Sugar Mill. Travel from Ayr towards Alva Beach along Beach Road. Lilliesmere Lagoon is about 6km from the Ayr Hospital.

NELSON'S LAGOON

A small area on Edward Street near Caledonian Hall. Travel from Queen Street roundabout towards Ayr Golf Club. The lagoon is on the left. This lagoon has water after recent rains, and sometimes dries up. Turn down Adelaide Street and head towards Chippendale Street for more lagoon area and birdlife.

GROPER CREEK

Travel from Home Hill towards Groper Creek along Groper Creek Road. You will travel through a wetland area which is home to a variety of North Queensland birdlife.

HORSESHOE LAGOON

One of the best spots in the Burdekin for bird watching is at Horseshoe Lagoon. The Burdekin Shire Council has provided a Bird Hide on the edge of the lagoon, which allows bird watchers a sheltered environment from which to view the various bird species living at this habitat. Photos and information about the birds can also be found here. Bring your camera and binoculars.

Horseshoe Lagoon is about a 30 minute drive north of Ayr. When heading north on the Bruce Highway, travel past the United Service Station at Greenacres. You will cross Horseshoe Lagoon, then come to an intersection with a cane railway crossing. Turn right here onto Hodel Road. Hodel Road is about 4km north from the Greenacres service station. Then travel 1.6 km along Hodel Road where you will find the Bird Hide on your right.

If you decide to travel to Horseshoe Lagoon, another place of interest on the way is a location where hundreds of ducks gather beside a waterhole. This is on private property on the eastern side of the highway at Jerona Road, about 26 km north of Ayr. The birds can be seen from the highway as you drive by. During drought conditions, this waterhole may be dry, and no birds present.

Birds you may see at Horseshoe Lagoon include:

- Black-necked stork (Jabiru)
- Magpie Goose
- Crimson Finch
- Australian Darter
- Yellow-Billed Spoonbill
- Cotton Pygmy-Goose
- Black-winged Stilt
- White-necked Heron
- Comb-crested Jacana

To drive near Cromarty Wetlands, turn right at Cromarty Siding Road, a short drive on the highway north of St Margarets Creek. The Cromarty Wetlands area is a proposed Eco-tourism development site.

WONGALOO/CROMARTY WETLAND

This 1770 hectare wetland is near Giru. The Aboriginal name for the main wetland is Wongaloo meaning quiet waters. It adjoins the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and forms the core of one of the largest coastal wetland complexes in eastern Australia. It's a breeding site for brolga and magpie geese.

<http://www.nqdrytopics.com.au/welcome-our-wetlands>

