

>> BIRDS OF THE TOWNSVILLE TOWN COMMON

The Town Common has been preserved as a wildlife sanctuary. In the rains the wetlands thrive with large numbers of migrating species, while in the dry it supports smaller numbers of birds with its array of native plants and trees.



The Jabiru (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) is Australia's only stork and can often be seen standing regally in water to its knees.



The Masked Lapwing Plover (*Vanellus miles*) can be seen almost everywhere. It noisily guards its nesting territory and is almost always found in pairs.



Magpie Geese (*Anseranas semipalmata*) collect in abundance in the wet season but are also common in the dry.



The Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus bracteatus*) has beautiful plumage that glows iridescent when it catches the sun. Keep a look out for its definite fish tail and red eye.

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