


Green Parrot

Cyanoramphus cookii



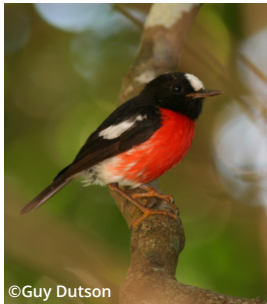
The Green Parrot serves as the symbol of Norfolk Island National Park and stands as a conservation success story. Thanks to ongoing work to control threats and support breeding, this iconic bird is recovering from near extinction. Listen for their characteristic 'kek-kek-kek' call, and keep your eyes out for this parrot's bright green feathers, red crown-patch and blue-edged wings.

 30cm
 32 - 38cm



 More often heard than seen, some favourite spots of the Green Parrot are the pines surrounding the Botanic Garden deck, the beginning of the Mt Bates track, or flying over the valley at Palm Glen.

Norfolk Island Robin


Petroica multicolor



There is no mistaking the male Robin's spectacular red breast contrasting with a black back and white head-patch. The female is brown rather than black, and with a chest of warm tones rather than red. Pairs lay two to four eggs in a small nest made from plants and spider webs, with the exterior camouflaged by lichens and moss.

 11.5 - 13.5cm
 17 - 22cm

©Guy Dutson

 Palm Glen is a favourite haunt for these birds - look for them on the posts near the main carpark. Or enjoy a dusk walk along the summit track to spot them flittering in the undergrowth.

Golden Whistler


Pachycephala pectoralis xanthoprocta Tamey



The melodious 'wh-wh-wh-wit-seep' of the Golden Whistler is one of the most beautiful birdsongs in Norfolk's forests. Whistle back, and you just might engage in a 'conversation' with these curious birds, known locally as 'Tameys'. Males and females look similar, brown above with a pale gold underside that becomes brighter during breeding season.

 16 - 19cm
 25 - 30cm

©Sue Brian

 The Botanic Garden is one of the best places to see (and hear) these beautiful birds. Take a stroll down to the bottom of the Rainforest Circuit or sit quietly on the deck to see them come in close.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Please wear sturdy footwear – bare feet, thongs or high heels are not recommended.
- Take sufficient drinking water with you. There are no refill stations along the tracks.
- Take extra care after rain because the tracks may become slippery.
- Some tracks may be uneven with protruding tree roots, or have numerous steps – please watch your step and use handrails where provided.
- Do not use mountain bikes, cars, quad-bikes or motor bikes on walking tracks (Park Service and emergency vehicles are permitted).
- Slip, slop, slap! – protect yourself from the sun.
- Please stay away from cliff edges.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Stay on the tracks to avoid damaging plants and causing erosion.
- All plants, animals, timber and soil are protected throughout the park. Please do not disturb or take them.
- Please take your rubbish with you when you leave the park.
- Feeding the birds or leaving food scraps around helps the introduced birds and rodents – please don't feed the wildlife.



Norfolk Island National Park

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<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/norfolk/>



Australian Government
Parks Australia



Discover the
diversity of
Norfolk's birds



BIRDS OF
NORFOLK ISLAND
NATIONAL PARK AND
BOTANIC GARDEN



Australian Government
Parks Australia

Black Noddy*Anous minutus* Titerack

Also known as White-capped Noddies, these birds are recognizable by their black-brown feathers and distinctive white patch atop their heads. During summer, many of the tall trees are teeming with nesting Noddies. Locals refer to them as 'Titeracks' which resembles the rattling calls of the adult bird.

35 - 40cm
 65 - 72cm

Black Noddys are best observed nesting in the trees throughout the Hundred Acres Reserve.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater*Ardena pacifica* Ghostbird

©Roger Williams

If you gaze out to the ocean at sunset, you may spot these birds gracefully floating on the water before they come ashore just after nightfall. Known to locals as 'Ghostbirds', their haunting moans echo across the island at night. Shearwaters cover vast distances during their annual migration, traveling up to 300 kilometres a day on their journey to Norfolk to breed.

46cm
 98cm

Witness these birds rafting out to sea from the summit of Mt. Pitt at dusk, or marvel as they glide in on nightfall at Hundred Acres or Puppies Point.

Sooty Tern*Onychoprion fuscatus* Whalebird

©Guy Dutson

With their sooty black backs and white undersides, you might observe these birds in large, noisy flocks of thousands returning to Norfolk's northern coast and offshore islands to breed. The local name for these birds is 'Whalebird', as they coincide their arrival back on Phillip Island with the spring/summer whale migration, before commencing breeding through summer.

33 - 36cm
 82 - 94cm

You can see (and hear) Sooty Terns during the breeding months offshore at Captain Cook monument.

Icon Key

The distance from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail.



The distance from the tip of one wing, to the tip of the other wing.



Ranger tips on the best places to see this bird.

Numbers on Norfolk**A****Abundant**

Occur in large numbers across the island and are easy to find.

C**Common**

Hard to spot, but if you spend time looking you are likely to see them.

R**Rare**

Occur in very small numbers and might be hard to find.

Residency status**Migrant**

Only present on Norfolk and/or Phillip islands at some times of the year.

**Endemic**

Occur naturally on Norfolk Island and nowhere else in the world.

Conservation status**E****Endangered**

At considerable risk of becoming extinct and require special management to secure future.

V**Vulnerable**

Likely to become endangered if the threats to their survival are not reduced or removed.

Masked Booby*Sula dactylatra tasmani* Garnet

These large and distinctive seabirds feature a white body, black tail, and a small black mask around their prominent yellow or yellowish-green beaks. The local subspecies, found only on the Norfolk Island group and Lord Howe Island is the largest of all Masked Boobies, and uniquely has a dark, not yellow, pupil. Phillip Island, Nepean Island, and the Norfolk islets serve as the primary local breeding areas for the Masked Booby.

75 - 85cm
 160 - 170cm

Best seen nesting on the offshore islets from the Captain Cook Monument lookout or from Bird Rock lookout. See if you can spot a chick - they can be nearly as big as their parents but covered in fluffy down!

Red-tailed Tropicbird*Phaethon rubricauda* Bosunbird

Adorned with rose hues on their breast when in breeding plumage, and black borders on their wings, these spectacular snowy-feathered seabirds grace Norfolk's skies between October and May. Using their two bright scarlet tail quills, they perform elaborate and unique courtship rituals, including hovering vertically or even flying backward over each other in raucous, rollicking displays.

80cm
 110 - 120cm

Look for Red-tailed Tropicbirds showcasing their vertical acrobatics at the Captain Cook Monument lookout throughout the day.

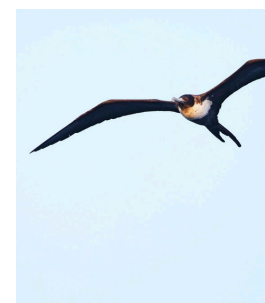
Black-winged Petrel*Pterodroma nigripennis*

©Simon Gorta

A vulnerable burrow-nesting species, Black-winged Petrels find refuge on the predator-free Northern Islets or on Phillip Island from October and throughout the summer. From below, they appear entirely white, with a distinct black outline. From above, they are grey on the head and back, with blacker wings. When in flight they perform acrobatic pursuits, punctuated throughout by intensifying "ki-ki-ki-ki!" calls.

29cm
 67cm

Enjoy the aerial acrobatics of these birds out at the Captain Cook monument, or from the viewpoint at Bird Rock lookout.

Great Frigatebird*Fregata minor*

Distinguished by their massive size, long, bent wings, two-pronged forked tails, and largely black plumage, these birds stand out from all other species on Norfolk. While they hunt for fish at sea and can snatch seabird chicks from nests, Great Frigatebirds are referred to as kleptoparasites, and often steal food from other seabirds by chasing and attacking them until they regurgitate their prey.

86 - 100cm
 205 - 230cm

Once transient visitors, Frigatebirds are best spotted soaring overhead and pursuing birds around their roosts at the Captain Cook monument lookout.


Feral Chicken

Gallus gallus



The colour and form of this feral fowl varies from plain black, white or red/brown, through to showy mantled metallic-green, and speckled. Widespread on the island, this domestic escapee causes serious disruption to natural regeneration of native plants and threatens Norfolk's endangered snails.

 male 70cm, female 40 - 45cm

 Everywhere and anywhere. Unfortunately, despite continued control efforts by the National Park, Feral Chickens remain abundant in the park and can be easily spotted scratching up seedlings in the undergrowth.

A


Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos



The Song Thrush has small brown inverted 'V' shaped markings from its chin to its rump. The warm olive-brown on its back can lighten to a paler grey-brown by mid-summer. When on the ground, Song Thrushes hop and run alternately in short bursts. They feed on Norfolk's native snails and other invertebrates.

 21 - 25cm
 34 - 39cm

 Favouring forested areas, a wander through the trails in the Botanic Garden is the best chance to see them feeding.

A


Pigeon

Columbia livia



Believed to have arrived on Norfolk in 1790 with the wreckage of the Sirius, the flagship of the First Fleet, Pigeons are now common around the entire island. Their grey and white feathers come in varied designs with some showing a metallic green sheen on their necks.

 31 - 34cm
 63 - 70cm

 Common across the whole island, from the sea to the summit of Mt Pitt, you won't have to look too hard to spot a Pigeon.

C


Crimson Rosella

Platycercus elegans Red Parrot



Introduced in the early 1800s as a cage bird, this showy 'Red Parrot' with a blue face-patch, tail and wing margins is now prolific around the island. They directly compete for nest sites, territory, and food with the endangered Green Parrot.

 36cm
 44 - 53cm

 Continued control efforts have reduced the number of Red Parrots in the park; however, they can still be seen throughout. Listen for their loud 'clink-clink' call and look up to see them in flight.

C


California Quail

Callipepla californica



Easily recognised by a characteristic 'flag' on its head, this Quail was introduced to the island as a game bird in 1895. You might see them in flocks of 5 to 20 feeding on the ground, quickly running or springing into short explosive bursts of flight to escape a threat.

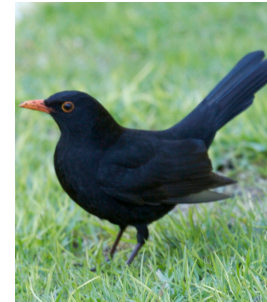
 25cm
 32 - 41cm

 California Quails will often reveal themselves by running across the track in flight. Enjoy this spectacle along the Mt Bates track.

C


European Blackbird

Turdus merula



The male Blackbird, as its name suggests, is usually all black with an orange to yellow beak. Young birds have a brown coloured beak. The female is a plain brown colour with a yellowish beak. Blackbirds mimic other birds, confusing bird watchers and researchers alike.

 25cm
 34 - 38.5cm

 Blackbirds can often be seen hopping along the ground in search of insects or worms, or in the treetops feeding on fruits and seeds.

A


Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris



These glossy black birds form large flocks in open pastures, and also occur in smaller groups in forested and residential areas. You can distinguish them from Blackbirds by their movement, as Starlings always run when on the ground while Blackbirds always hop.

 21cm
 35cm

 These birds are common across the park and island. Walk the Tree Fern Valley circuit in the Botanic Garden for a closer look.

A


House Sparrow

Passer domesticus



Sparrows flock in small to medium groups. They are a small bird, with dark black brown upper parts, and pale grey-brown underparts, with male and female birds exhibiting different head and throat colouring.

 14 - 17cm
 19 - 25cm

 These birds are more likely to be seen on the fringes of the park and garden, rather than deep into the thicker forest.

A


White Tern

Gygis alba



These graceful birds, snow-white except for their black bills, feet, and eyes, often soar in pairs, becoming emblematic of Norfolk Island's summer sky. On close inspection, the base of their bills can show a vibrant neon-blue hue. White Terns typically depart the island in May to spend several months at sea, returning in mid-August for mating – the shortest period any migratory seabird is absent from the island.

 28 - 33cm
 66 - 78cm

 During the breeding months, spot White Terns almost everywhere within the National Park. The Botanic Garden is a particularly popular spot, where baby Terns can often be seen perched on low-hanging branches.

C



Grey Gerygone


Gerygone modesta Peurty



©David Cook

Gerygones are Norfolk's smallest birds and one of the most widely distributed species on the island. Both sexes are a dull grey-brown above and whitish below. You may see them darting or hovering with their fast-moving wings. Also, listen out for their melodious trilling song.

 10.9cm
 16cm

 These birds are very small and remain challenging to see. Track them by their very loud vocalisation, and you might just catch them flittering in the trees.

Silvereye


Zosterops lateralis Grinnell



©Guy Dutson

With a white eye-ring distinctive of this genus of birds, you can distinguish Silvereyes from their close relatives, White-eyes, by the red brown shading down the sides of the breast. Silvereyes have adapted to life on the island within the forest and around human habitation. You can find them year-round wherever fruit is available.

 11 - 13cm
 15 - 19cm

 Silvereyes tend to congregate. Try walking along the summit track where they flock in groups in trees along the track's edge.

Slender-billed White-eye


Zosterops tenuirostris Grinnell



©Guy Dutson

Slender-billed White-eyes are unique to Norfolk Island. They are distinguished from the Silvereye by their longer slimmer beak, larger size, yellow-green chest colouring, and grey flanks. Foraging in groups, they use their down-curved bill to search crevices in bark for insects and to feed on nectar.

 14cm
 21cm

 These birds tend to use the same habitat as the Silvereyes, congregating in chatty groups in vegetation on the track's edges.


Grey Fantail

Rhipidura albiscapa pelzelni



These small, inquisitive birds are grey and brown with white markings, and never seem to stay still, flitting their fanlike tail as they move. They are not shy and may follow you along the walking tracks, singing in a vigorous chatter. Grey Fantails live in forests and gardens across the island.

 14 - 16.5cm
 18 - 22.5cm

 You won't have to look too hard to see one of these birds, as they will often accompany walkers. We like to think they are saying hello, but really, they are hoping to catch the insects disturbed by your steps.


Norfolk Island Morepork Owl

Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata



With only one female known to exist in 1986, this owl was once the rarest bird in the world. Thankfully it has been saved from extinction through crossbreeding with closely related Morepork Owls from New Zealand. You can hear their particular 'moo-pooork' call from dusk until dawn, especially on warm moonlit nights.

 29cm
 50cm

 Moreporks only come out at night and remain extremely elusive. They can occasionally be seen atop of Mt Pitt, which is also the best place to hear their call.


Sacred Kingfisher

Todiramphus sanctus norfolkiensis Nuffka



With their blue-grey wings, green back, and golden breast, these Kingfishers can often be seen perching on branches and posts. Locals refer to these charismatic birds as 'Nuffka', derived from the Pitcairn word for 'Norfolker'. From September to December, they aggressively dig out burrows for nesting by flying at the ground full speed before finishing the job with their claws and beak.

 22cm
 29 - 33cm

 Nuffkas can be best spotted perching on electrical wires and posts all around the island.


Nankeen Kestrel

Falco cenchroides



Also known as the Australasian Kestrel, these raptors were first observed on Norfolk in 1969 and now reside here all year round. Often seen hovering above the forest, they prey upon insects, small rodents, and occasionally small birds. Kestrels have rufous upper parts, black tipped wings, and pale underparts.

 30 - 35cm
 60 - 80cm

 Mt Pitt remains a favoured hunting site for these birds, where they can be seen elegantly hovering in place while scanning for prey.


Emerald Dove

Chalcophaps indica



These small plump pigeons have a pinkish-brown body with bright, emerald green wings. The male bird has a white shoulder patch and distinctive white barring across its rump, while the female's shoulder patch is grey. You can sometimes hear their gentle call consisting of about six to seven coos starting quietly and rising.

 23 - 27cm
 43 - 46cm

 Emerald Doves are ground-dwelling birds; look for them scratching the undergrowth in more densely forested sections of the park like Palm Glen circuit or the Botanic Garden.

Welcome Swallow


Hirundo neoxena



©Trevor Evans

Rosy-breasted and fork-tailed, these agile daredevils can often be seen flying in fast circles and figure eight patterns over fresh water and fields. They feed on insects while flying. These Swallows are winter visitors to Norfolk, being here from the end of March until October.

 16cm
 28cm

 A group of Welcome Swallows can consistently be seen at the Bird Rock lookout or spot them sitting in small groups on power lines and fence posts around the island.