Cotter Recreation Area

Extensive recreational area 30 minutes from the Canberra CBD, near Cotter Dam. Wheelchair-accessible paths at Cotter Avenue. A walk goes along the river to the far end of Cotter Bend, crosses the river and returns on the other side. Howlong Track leads to a viewpoint at the top of the dam wall.

Habitats: parkland, riverine.

Access: turn right onto Cotter Road from Tuggeranong Parkway. Follow Cotter Road for 16.5 km to the intersection with Cotter Avenue. Parking, toilets, picnic areas at Cotter Avenue and Cotter Bend. Children's playground at Cotter Avenue. Camping at Cotter Campground nearby, bookings required, fee applies.

Birds: Pacific Black Duck, Crimson Rosella, Leaden Flycatcher, Superb Fairy-wren, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Satin Bowerbird.

Unusual sightings: Azure Kingfisher, Emu, Great Crested Grebe, White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

eBird lists: Cotter Reserve; Cotter Reserve – Cotter Bend; Cotter Dam

Nearby: Casuarina Sands Nature Reserve (picnic area on Murrumbidgee River)

Canberra Birds encourages interest in the birds of the Canberra region, and promotes the conservation of native birds and their habitats.

We support ethical birding and promote bird watching and photography that show consideration of bird welfare and habitats.

Canberra Birds acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we bird.

This brochure describes five interesting birding sites in the hills and ranges of the Australian Capital Territory.

Please check weather conditions before travelling into the ranges, and let someone know details of your trip. There is limited mobile coverage in the areas described in this brochure.

Details of Canberra Birds activities:
canberrabirds.org.au

Contact details for Canberra Birds:
canberrabirds.org.au/about-cog/contact-us/

Images

COVER Superb Lyrebird *Julie Clark*

NAMAGDI VISITOR'S CENTRE Jacky Winter *Deb Ralph*

RENDEZVOUS CREEK/OLD BOBOYAN RD
Flame Robin *Geoffrey Dabb*

TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE
Eastern Yellow Robin *Liam Manderson*

COTTER RECREATION AREA
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo
Duncan McCaskill

BRINDABELLA RANGES
White-naped Honeyeater *Deb Ralph*

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Canberra BIRDS
Birds • Conservation • Education

Birding in ACT RANGES

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

PADDYS RIVER ROAD

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve is one of Canberra's favourite recreational areas comprising diverse habitats with barbecues, a playground, walking trails and wildlife sanctuary. As well as birds, there are kangaroos, koalas, bandicoots, potoroos and platypus.

Habitats: woodland, mountain forest, grassland, wetlands/ponds.

Access: on Paddy's River Road, via Point Hut Crossing or Cotter Reserve. Entry fee may apply.

Toilets, picnic areas, great variety of walks.
The Sanctuary has wheelchair-accessible tracks.

Mobile phone reception is generally limited to the area near the Visitors Centre.

Birds: more than 170 species have been recorded including Superb Lyrebird in the higher locations, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-naped Honeyeater and waterbirds in the sanctuary, Eastern Whipbird, Rufous Fantail in wet gullies.

Unusual sightings: Emu, Wonga Pigeon, Eastern Shrike-tit, Crescent Honeyeater.

eBird lists: Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve; Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve – Rock Valley; Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve – Sanctuary

Namadgi National Park Visitors Centre THARWA

The woodland behind the Visitors Centre can be a good place to see some uncommon woodland species. The centre is also one end of the Australian Alps Walking Track, with potential for longer walks.

Habitats: woodland, grassland, dam.

Access: the Visitors Centre is on Naas Road, 2.7 km from the Tharwa Bridge. Toilets, picnic tables. Short walks on trails through the woodland.

Birds: wide variety of small woodland birds, some waterbirds. White-throated and Western Gerygones in summer. Robins in winter. Thornbills all year.

Unusual sightings: Jacky Winter, Diamond Firetail.

eBird list: Namadgi National Park – Visitor Centre

Nearby: Gigerline Nature Reserve – Tharwa Sandwash

Rendezvous Creek/Old Boboyan Road

These are two of the more easily accessible birding sites further into Namadgi National Park. The Rendezvous Creek track meanders through a wooded area alongside the creek. It opens out to expansive views over the grasslands of Gudgenby Valley.

Habitat: sub-alpine woodland and grassland.

Access: from Namadgi Visitors Centre, continue south on Naas Road then Boboyan Road. The Rendezvous Creek carpark is 4.5 km after the Gudgenby River crossing, and the junction with Old Boboyan Road is 1 km further. Old Boboyan Road is unsealed but generally drivable for 3 km until Yankee Hat carpark, although the water crossings may need 4WD.

Birds: Scarlet, Flame and Eastern Yellow Robins, Little Ravens on the grassy hills. Fuscous Honeyeater, Rufous Songlark, martins and woodswallows in summer.

Unusual sightings: Swamp Harrier, Lewin's Rail.

eBird lists: Rendezvous Creek; Yankee Hat car park and track

Nearby: Honeysuckle Creek. **eBird list:** Honeysuckle Creek Campground

Brindabella Ranges

The 'Brindies' are the closest wet forest and sub-alpine habitats to Canberra.

Habitats: mountain forest, sub-alpine woodland.

Access: take Uriarra Road west of Canberra, cross the Murrumbidgee River, and turn left on Uriarra Road to Brindabella Road. After 16 km, turn left at Piccadilly Circus onto Mount Franklin Road. Bulls Head Picnic Area is a further 4 km. Blundells Creek Road, Warks Road and Bendora Road provide good birding.

Many roads are unsealed and may need 4WD, especially after rain. Higher elevations are under snow in winter.

Birds: mountain forest specialities such as Superb Lyrebird, Golden and Olive Whistler, Crescent Honeyeater, Flame and Rose Robin, Gang-gang Cockatoo.

Unusual sightings: Grey Currawong, Pilotbird, Red-browed Treecreeper, Cicadabird.

eBird lists: Brindabella Road at Blundells Creek Road; Bendora Road (Upper)