

BIRD SIGHTINGS FROM LAKE TEBURU

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Lake Teburu is in northern Gulf Province near the confluence of the Pio and Purari rivers at about 600 m elevation. The lake lies within a steep-walled valley having no outflow other than via sinkholes that pocket the limestone sides of the valley. About 15 % of the lake is open water and the remainder is covered with dense mats of floating vegetation or dense thickets of rushes.

On 20 October 1991 we visited the lake for about five hours in the afternoon. Because it was extremely difficult to move through the floating vegetation, our observations were primarily made from a knoll near the north edge of the lake and on a quick pass over the lake by helicopter.

As the lake has not been visited by ornithologists before and is home to a large number of water birds, the limited observations we were able to make are worth recording.

The following birds were observed:

Little Pied Cormorant Fairly common.	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>
Little Black Cormorant Uncommon.	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
Darter Common.	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Intermediate Egret Common.	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Great Egret Common.	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Little Egret Uncommon.	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Rufous Night Heron Fairly common.	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>
Pacific Black Duck Fairly common.	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Green Pygmy Goose Fairly common.	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>

Australian White-eyed Duck A single pair was seen at close quarters.	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Wandering Whistling Duck Very common.	<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>
Spotted Whistling Duck Uncommon.	<i>Dendrocygna guttata</i>
Brahminy Kite Fairly common.	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Dusky Moorhen Fairly common.	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Purple Swamphen Fairly common.	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Sacred Kingfisher Uncommon.	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>

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