

# Sun Spot



## Pink Euodia

This section has open sunny patches and a range of different rainforest trees. One large tree, the Pink Euodia (*Melicope elleryana*), is a host tree for the beautiful and iconic metallic blue Ulysses Butterfly. This tree can be identified by its shiny leaves growing in groups of three and large masses of pink flowers on the branches and trunks during the wet season. The flowers attract numerous butterflies and honeyeaters and are followed by greenish fruit that persist throughout the dry season. The seeds of this fruit are eaten by several birds including fruit-doves, figbirds and orioles.



## Big lizard

One of Cattana Wetlands most impressive residents is the Lace Monitor. Growing to over two metres, this large, distinctive goanna can often be seen during the day foraging on the ground in the forest but will quickly climb a tree if disturbed. While they are highly arboreal, that is they live in the trees, they do like to bask in sunny, open spots to regulate their temperature before moving on to seek out live prey such as insects, reptiles, nesting birds and mammals, as well as carrion.

## Yellow delights

Sunbirds can often be seen flitting around in the understory in these open, sunny areas. These beautiful yellow birds usually travel in pairs where they hover and dart around, calling to each other (a shrilling 'tsee-tsee-tsee-tss-ss-ss') while looking for flowers and spiders. Males can be identified by their iridescent blue throat and upper chest. Using their long, curved bills, they extract nectar from flowers and occasionally grab an insect. Late in the dry season they build suspended, pendulous nests made from vegetation bound together with cobwebs complete with a hooded side entrance, where they raise one or two chicks.



## Bush favourite

These black and white birds with their distinctive white eyebrow are one of Australia's most common and favourite birds. Willie Wagtails can be seen in the more open, sunny areas where they characteristically fan and swing their long tail and dart between trees to catch small insects. They sing a melodic song during the day, and sometimes at night, that is best described as 'sweet-pretty-creature' and a rattling 'rikka-tikka-tikka-tik'. During the dry season they build a cup-shaped nest on a horizontal branch and raise up to four chicks.