

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
length 60 cm

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
length 33 cm

Grey Butcherbird
length 30 cm

Australasian Figbird
length 28 cm

Blue-faced Honeyeater
length 29 cm

Pied Currawong
length 45 cm

Laughing Kookaburra
length 45 cm

Noisy Friarbird
length 30 cm

Pied Butcherbird
length 35 cm

Eastern Yellow Robin
length 15 cm

Pale-headed Rosella
length 31 cm

Common (Indian) Myna
length 21 cm
(Introduced Species)

Spangled Drongo
length 30 cm

Noisy Miner
length 25 cm

Rainbow Lorikeet
length 30 cm

Welcome Swallow
length 15 cm

Willie Wagtail
length 20 cm

backyard birds

OF THE SUNSHINE COAST



Lewin's Honeyeater
length 21 cm

Scarlet Honeyeater
length 10 cm

Brown Honeyeater
length 14 cm

White-throated Honeyeater
length 14 cm

White-cheeked Honeyeater
length 18 cm

Crested Pigeon
length 32 cm

Magpie-lark (Pee-wee)
length 25 cm

Australian Magpie
length 40 cm

Australian Brush-turkey
length 70 cm

For inquiries about birds and domestic gardens, contact:

BIRDS IN BACKYARDS www.birdsinbackyards.net

t (02) 9647 1875

BIRDS AUSTRALIA www.birdsaustralia.com.au

t 1300 730 075



Sunshine Coast Council

Birds in Your Garden

How to bring back the little ones. .

Australia-wide, populations of many of our small bird species are declining. Once common birds such as finches, fairy-wrens, silvereyes and small honeyeaters are becoming rare, or in some places are no longer seen at all. There are many reasons for this, but the biggest is the loss of suitable places for them to live and successfully raise their families.

This situation exists in both rural farmlands and in built up urban areas; from big cities to rural townships. That means that we can all contribute towards saving our small birds irrespective of where we live or how big our gardens are. We just need to do things a little differently.

Small changes for a big difference. .

Garden design and structure

Simple open gardens provide little shelter or food for birds. We need to plant:

- dense shrubs below a tree layer, close together so they form protective thickets.
- shrubs that provide a range of foods: nectar, seeds, fruit, and habitat for insects.
- local plants that provide the things that the birds in our local areas need.
- less grass for mowing, but rather plant native grasses that can seed and only need cutting occasionally.

We should:

- avoid using insecticides.
- use composted lawn clippings and leaf litter on garden beds as mulch.

Providing water

Birds need fresh water but they are vulnerable when they are drinking or bathing and need to feel safe. We should:

- place birdbaths beyond the reach of cats, and in dappled shade.
- grow plants close to birdbaths so birds can perch and observe the area first.
- replace the water and clean the container regularly.
- ask a neighbour to add water when away, so the birds don't lose their water supply.

Provision of supplementary food

It is much healthier for birds to obtain natural food from our gardens by planting suitable native species than for them to be fed directly by people.

- Providing food such as meat can encourage more aggressive and potentially problematic birds such as the Torresian Crow and Pied Currawong which may attack vulnerable birds.
- Feeding sugar or honey and bread to nectar eating species can cause serious health problems as well as potentially increasing the density of more aggressive species such as Rainbow Lorikeets to the detriment of smaller nectar eating species.

- If you do decide to feed native birds locate the feeding station away from domestic animals and only provide supplementary food occasionally. Ensure that the feeding station is cleaned regularly to prevent spreading disease amongst the bird population.

Only provide good quality natural foods such as:

- native seed mix or trees and shrubs with suitable seed.
- nectar available through planting a range of suitable nectar producing shrubs and trees.

Be a responsible pet owner

Keep your cat inside or within an outside enclosure particularly at night. This is safer for the cat as well as native wildlife. De-sexing prevents unwanted kittens while micro chipping and registering allows your pet to be returned to you if it leaves your property.

The Sunshine Coast plays host to a number of migratory species and other ground dwelling birds. Be a responsible pet owner and keep dogs away so they do not harass these migratory or ground-dweller species.

For more information on responsible dog use of coastal beaches and sandbanks a brochure is available from Customer Service centres or through the environment section of Councils website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Nuisance Birds

Some introduced species, such as the Common (Indian) Myna, compete with native species for nesting hollows. You can discourage them from coming into your garden by not feeding them. Contact Council for more information on our community based Common Myna program.

Some native birds can also be problematic and a nuisance to humans and/or other animals, like the Torresian Crow, Australian Magpie, Noisy Miner and Australian Brush-turkey.

For more information

To find out more about identifying the birds in your area, creating gardens and habitat for birds at home, in school grounds or any open space, or undertaking bird surveys in your own garden or local area, see the Birds in Backyards website: www.birdsinbackyards.net.

A Field Guide to Australian Birds is useful for identification, especially for the maps showing where birds are likely to occur. These are available at bookshops, good newsagents, and the reference section of your local library.

More information on the following Council initiatives is available by contacting Customer Service Ph 07 5475 7272 or through the environment section of the website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

- *Responsible dog use of beaches and sandbanks* brochure
- *Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns of Coastal SEQ identification guide*
- *Waterbirds and Raptors of Coastal SEQ identification guide*
- Common (Indian) Myna bird community program

Photographers: Bob Ravich (Eastern Yellow Robin), Wojciech Dabrowka and Kevin Vang/Bird Explorers (Australian Brush-turkey, Brown Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike), Richard Major/Australian Museum (Magpie-lark, Australian Magpie, Noisy Miner, Willie Wagtail, Common Myna, Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Friarbird, Pied Currawong), Greg Gowing/Australian Museum (Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo), Ed Pierce (Welcome Swallow, Pale-headed Rosella, Australasian Figbird), Tom Oliver (Levin's Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, White-throated Honeyeater), Ákos Lumnitzer (Scarlet Honeyeater), Kimberley Prior (Crested Pigeon), Nolan Caldwell (Blue-faced Honeyeater)

A Selection of SUNSHINE COAST BIRDS



The Living Smart program promotes the creation and protection of habitat for local native wildlife in urban backyards through its Backyard Biodiversity module. Wherever you live we can all play a part in helping our local native animals by providing safe, suitable habitat and feeding opportunities for them.



<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au>



<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net>



<http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au>



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1. Pacific Black Duck (55cm)
Common duck often found on lawns and around lakes.



2. Australian Wood Duck (47 cm)
Seen on grassland and away from water. Nests in hollows.



3. Australian Brush-turkey (65 cm)
Large black ground forager. Males build mounds for females to lay eggs. Common in gardens.



4. Brown Quail (18 cm)
Largest native quail. Found in groups in grasses near water.



5. White-faced Heron (65 cm)
Most common heron. Can be found anywhere with water. Often seen on lawns.



6. Great Egret (80 cm)
Hunts alone in water but nests in a treetop colony.



7. Australian White Ibis (72 cm)
Common in towns and cities. Will roost in palms and can become a pest.



8. White-bellied Sea Eagle (80 cm)
Very large eagle that soars in large circles. 'Honking' call.



9. Brahminy Kite (50 cm)
Found along coasts and rivers. Distinct white head.



10. Whistling Kite (55 cm)
Shaggy appearance. Underwings have pale 'M' shape.



11. Osprey (66 cm)
Large fishing hawk found on coastline. Bold brown eye stripe.



12. Australian Hobby (33 cm)
Small, fast, dark falcon with square tail. Takes prey on wing.



13. Purple Swamphen (46 cm)
Large conspicuous hen with bright red beak and legs.



14. Dusky Moorhen (37 cm)
Medium sized dark hen with red beak. Swims but is unable to dive.



15. Bush Stone-curlew (55 cm)
Unusual, bush dwelling wader. Wailing call at night. Skulks when alarmed.



16. Masked Lapwing (36 cm)
Large, conspicuous, noisy and aggressive plover. Common around lawns and parks with short grass.



17. Rock Dove* (34 cm)
Introduced species also called the Feral Pigeon. Originally from Europe.



18. Bar-shouldered Dove (28 cm)
Commonly seen feeding on the ground. Builds flimsy nests.



19. Crested Pigeon (32 cm)
Grey pigeon with distinct black crest. Feeds on the ground. Distinct whistling sound on take off.



20. Spotted Dove* (30 cm)
Previously known as Spotted Turtle-dove. Introduced from Asia around 1860. Mostly in parks and gardens.



21. Superb Fruit-dove (23 cm)
Small colourful dove. Rainforest and fringes, lantana thickets.



22. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (48 cm)
Familiar, noisy white cockatoo. Often feeds on ground. Can be destructive.



23. Galah (36 cm)
Widespread and common bird. Feeds on ground or low foliage in small flocks.



24. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (60 cm)
Feeds in small to large noisy flocks on native seeds, trees and pine cones.



25. Glossy Black-Cockatoo (48 cm)
Classified as Vulnerable. Reliant on casuarina seeds.



26. Rainbow Lorikeet (30 cm)
Familiar colourful lorikeet. Feeds on fruit and nectar from flowers.



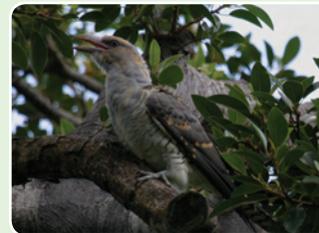
27. Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (23 cm)
Feed in flocks, sometimes with rainbow lorikeets. Found in well-treed suburbs.



28. Pale-headed Rosella (31 cm)
Quiet parrot. Feeds mostly on seeds and sometimes fruits in grassy woodlands and trees near water.



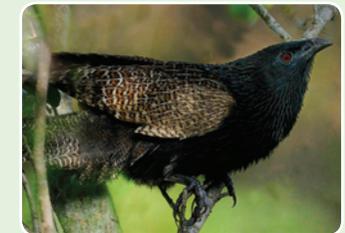
29. Australian King-parrot (42 cm)
Males are bright red (shown), females have a green head.



30. Channel-billed Cuckoo (62 cm)
Huge, pale grey with large curved bill. Migratory species, spring/summer.



31. Common Koel (42 cm)
Males are black (shown), females and young are mottled brown. Migratory species spring/summer.



32. Pheasant Coucal (60 cm)
Carnivorous species with long tail. The only Australia cuckoo to build its own nest.



33. Fan-tailed Cuckoo (26 cm)
Hunts from perch, dropping on prey. Has a mournful descending call.



34. Southern Boobook (29 cm)
Also called a 'Mopoke'. Smallest and most common owl in Australia.



35. Tawny Frogmouth (44 cm)
Nocturnal bird that feeds on invertebrates and some small animals. Usually seen in camouflage pose on bare branch.



36. Laughing Kookaburra (42 cm)
Nests in hollows and termite nests. Uses its large beak to catch reptiles and small snakes. Classic laughing call.



37. Sacred Kingfisher (22 cm)
Hunts on dry land for small reptiles. Margins of rivers and open woodland.



38. Rainbow Bee-eater (24 cm)
Orange wings flash against the sky. Tail has long central streamers.



39. Dollarbird (28 cm)
Arrives each year in September to breed. Uses hollows for nesting.



40. Red-backed Fairy-wren (11 cm)
Females and young are brown. Found in tall grass and shrubs.



41. Variegated Fairy-wren (13 cm)
Females and young are brown. Shy, inclined to stay in undergrowth.



42. Blue-faced Honeyeater (31 cm)
Large, gregarious, aggressive. Adults have a blue mask, young have a green mask.



43. White-cheeked Honeyeater (18 cm)
White cheeks and heavy dark bill. Often in groups foraging for nectar.



44. Lewin's Honeyeater (20 cm)
Yellow ear patch. Feeds on fruit, nectar and on insects in trees.



45. Brown Honeyeater (14 cm)
Brown with small yellow tuft behind eye. Feeds on flowering natives.



46. Scarlet Honeyeater (10 cm)
Females and young are brown. Feeds at blossoms to feed.



47. Noisy Miner (25 cm)
Aggressive honeyeater that lives in large family groups. Territorial.



48. Noisy Friarbird (34 cm)
Conspicuous, black head without feathers, has bump on bill. Noisy abrupt call when feeding.



49. Striated Pardalote (9 cm)
Feed on insects in the tree canopy. Nest in hollows or tunnel in earthy banks.



50. Brown Thornbill (10 cm)
Warm brown to olive brown in colour. Actively seeks insect prey in undergrowth.



51. Striated Thornbill (10 cm)
Small insect-eater with an orange-brown cap. Feeds high up in trees.



52. Eastern Whipbird (28 cm)
Loud whip-crack call made by 2 birds. Keeps to thickets, fossicking in ground litter.



53. Torresian Crow (53 cm)
Forms large noisy groups in urban areas. Nest of sticks high in eucalypt litter.



54. Pied Currawong (46 cm)
Bold scavengers in suburbs. Form large, often noisy, wandering flocks.



55. Grey Butcherbird (27 cm)
Melodic song. Aggressive predator that stores food on tree branches or crevices.



56. Pied Butcherbird (36 cm)
Black-headed with superb song. Hunts from bare limbs, power poles and wires.



57. Australian Magpie (44 cm)
One of Australia's best known birds. Conspicuous, large, black and white.



58. Golden Whistler (18 cm)
Persistent, loud, ringing song. Colourful male, solitary except when breeding.



59. Rufous Whistler (18 cm)
Back, tail and wings mostly mid-grey, with deep rusty yellow/orange underparts unlike the bright yellow of the Golden Whistler.



60. Grey Shrike-thrush (25 cm)
Rich, varied song. Widespread in extremely varied habitats.



61. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (36 cm)
Conspicuous black face and throat. Strong undulating flight aids identification.



62. Australasian Figbird (29 cm)
Lives in small groups. Feeds on fruiting trees, wild figs and exotic palm fruits.



63. Olive-backed Oriole (28 cm)
Graceful thrush-like bird with greenish and streaked plumage. Difficult to sight.



64. Spangled Drongo (32 cm)
Iridescent black plumage, with long, out curved, forked tail. Upright posture.



65. Willie Wagtail (22 cm)
Waves tail incessantly. Always restless, swinging body from side to side while making a clicking sound.



66. Grey Fantail (17 cm)
Grey with short white eyebrow. Twisting, turning acrobatics when feeding.



67. Rufous Fantail (16 cm)
Flits and dances above lower undergrowth. Fanned tail bright orange-rufous.



68. Magpie-lark (30 cm)
Common magpie-like small bird. Has adapted to use man-made environments.



69. Leaden Flycatcher (16 cm)
Hovers above foliage, taking small insects from leaves or snatching in flight.



70. Eastern Yellow Robin (16 cm)
Clings to low branches and tree trunks while scanning the ground for movement of insects.



71. White-breasted Woodswallow (18 cm)
Grey hood and white breast. Found in woodlands near water or mangroves. Highly sociable.



72. Welcome Swallow (15 cm)
Slender, streamlined with long tapered wings. Fast, buoyant, acrobatic in air.



73. Fairy Martin (13 cm)
Catches flying insects in flight. Builds bottle-shaped mud nest under any overhang.



74. Silvereye (13 cm)
Lively, busily active little birds, constantly on the move. Feed on fruit and insects.



75. Red-browed Finch (12 cm)
Highly sociable, with scarlet bill, highbrow and rump. Perches on grass.



76. Double-barred Finch (11 cm)
Feeds on grass seeds and flits about in low shrubs.



77. Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (12 cm)
Strong silver bill/black face with chestnut upper breast. Seed eater.



78. Common Myna* (25 cm)
Also called the Indian Myna. Introduced to N Qld in late 1800's and classified as a pest.



79. Common Starling* (21 cm)
Introduced to eastern states in late 1800's. Flight swift, flocks rise and fall.



80. House Sparrow* (16 cm)
Introduced in the 1860's, now an abundant pest.

* Introduced.