**Birds of Sydney**

**PARKS & GARDENS**

Where to find birds

Two parks and a botanic garden close to the centre of Sydney are rich in bird life.

**Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney**
A wonderful place to wander and discover common bird species. Watch for the Buff-banded Rail darting between garden beds. If you are lucky you may find the Powerful Owl.

**Centennial Parklands**
Has many large ponds attracting a diversity of species. The trees and undergrowth at Lachlan Swamp and around the Kensington Ponds attract waterbirds and songbirds alike.

**Sydney Park, St Peters**
Formerly a brickworks and rubbish tip, it is now a green haven for recreation. Its wetlands, newly planted trees and gardens attract many species of birds.

Go birdwatching
To find out more about birdwatching and field outings, visit [www.birdingnsw.org.au](http://www.birdingnsw.org.au)

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**The Laughing Kookaburra** is the bird emblem of NSW – its raucous laugh is well known. In this brochure are some of the birds you are most likely to come across – how many have you seen? Tick the boxes!

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**Introduced birds**

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**Black Swan**
120 cm
It’s not all black – when it spreads its wings you will see its white flight feathers. Nests in the reed beds.

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**Chestnut Teal**
43 cm
Only the male is chestnut – his head is green, or black. The indescribable colour depends on the light.

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**Australian Wood Duck**
46 cm
Just as likely to be seen on land as on water, sometimes even perching in trees where it nests in hollows.

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**Australasian Grebe**
26 cm
A happy little face with its yellow eye and oval yellow facial marking. When in danger it dives instead of flying.

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**Great Cormorant**
82 cm
The largest of our four local cormorants – black with a yellow face.

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**Dusky Moorhen**
38 cm
One of our commonest water birds, its beak is red, with a yellow tip. The similar Eurasian Coot has a white beak.

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**Australasian Darter**
94 cm
The bill of a darter is dagger-like and the neck can be bent into an ‘S’ shape for stealthy and skillful fishing. It stands on a dead branch or rock to dry its outstretched wings.

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**Purple Swamphen**
46 cm
Bigger and more colourful than Dusky Moorhen. Both have a part of the beak that extends over the forehead – this is called its shield.
Brown Goshawk
55 cm
A secretive resident which preys on small birds. When sunny soars high on slightly upturned wings.

Eastern Spinebill
16 cm
A beautiful little bird with a long beak designed for probing flowers to extract their nectar. It often hovers in flight.

New Holland Honeyeater
18 cm
Often sitting boldly on the top of a branch. Visible near the beak.

Powerful Owl
65 cm
During the day it perches on the branch of a tree in dense canopy. Visible from the ground, often with the remains of its prey in its talons.

Spotted Pardalote
10 cm
This common pretty little spotted bird is difficult to see as it spends most of its time high up in eucalypt foliage feeding on tiny insects.

Welcome Swallow
15 cm
This master of flight uses low level, high-speed aerobatics to vacuum up flying insects.

Willie Wagtail
21 cm
A feisty little bird. As well as its rattling alarm call it has a call which some say sounds like ‘sweet pretty creature’.

Australasian Figbird
29 cm
They eat all sorts of fruit and move round in flocks searching for food trees, such as figs.

Australasian Reed-Warbler
17 cm
Commonly heard calling from reed beds in summer.

Auustralian Reed-Warbler
17 cm
A member of the cuckoo family. Its rising coo-ee, coo-ee call is a well-known sound in Sydney in the warmer months.

Noisy Miner
20 cm
Has many different calls. It is aggressive towards other birds. Not to be confused with the Common Myna an introduced species.

Australian Silvereye
12 cm
Often called a crow (and the only one you’re likely to find around here). Listen for its powerful aah-aah-aahah call with the last note drawn out and dropping in pitch.

Buff-Banded Rail
35 cm
Can be found skulking in the dense vegetation of garden beds. If frightened the preferred method of escape is to melt silently into the foliage.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
65 cm
Spectacular bird, often seen flying overhead in flocks, heading for pine trees. Loud, creaking call.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
34 cm
Not a cuckoo nor a shrike, an older (better!) name is the Shufflings – which is what it does every time it lands.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo
27 cm
Its song is a mournful, descending trill. Often mobbed and harassed by other birds who want to protect their nest and eggs.

Grey Butcherbird
28 cm
So-called as it stores prey in a tree fork, using its hooked beak to tear it into bite-sized chunks. But it’s a handsome bird and sings beautifully.

Red Wattlebird
35 cm
So named for its red ‘wattles’ or skin-flaps on its neck. It has a yellow belly and its call sounds like a barking dog with a bad cough.

Grey Fantail
16 cm
A lively, inquisitive bird that lives up to its name. When perched, it fans and wags its tail.

Red Wattlebird
35 cm
Often sitting boldly on the top of a branch. Sounds like a squeaky toy.

Eastern Koel
42 cm
A member of the cuckoo family. Its rising coo-ee, coo-ee call is a well-known sound in Sydney in the warmer months.

Nankeen Kestrel
32 cm
The smallest of our 24 birds of prey. It’s one of the few birds that can hover, whilst looking for prey on the ground.

Centralian Butcherbird
30 cm
This bird isn’t a butcher bird at all, it just has a very red face. Known for its calls. It is aggressive towards other birds. Not to be confused with the Common Myna an introduced species.

Crested Pigeon
42 cm
When it lands its tail tilts upwards. Makes a distinctive whistling sound when taking flight.

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Silvereye
12 cm
Busy little birds with bright, white eye rings. Often in tinkling little flocks flitting in the bushes.

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