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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## BIRDWATCHING IN THE PARK

Perth is fortunate enough to have an area of over 400ha of native vegetation, parks and gardens in the middle of the city which provides a home for over 70 species of birds, many of which live here permanently and others visit at various times of the year.

Morning is the best time for bird watching. Good places to see birds are the Botanic Gardens, the banksia woodlands in spring and the edges of woodland where the trees meet grassed area. To see some of the rarer species such as thornbills, you can take a quiet walk along some of the trails throughout the park.

This brochure tells you about 42 of the most common birds of Kings Park. By using your eyes and ears you should be able to find many of them.

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Floreat Western Australia 6014  
Telephone: 9383 7749

The Western Australian Group can be contacted at the above address for further information on native birds of Western Australia. New members are welcome.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden Information Centre  
9.30am - 4pm daily Tel: 9480 3634

Visit the Annual Wildflower Festival  
held in Kings Park each September

### Key

<b>R</b> - Resident all year	<b>C</b> - Common
<b>V</b> - Visitor for part of year	<b>M</b> - Moderately Common
<b>B</b> - Breeds in Kings Park	<b>U</b> - Uncommon



# Birds of Kings Park and Botanic Garden



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and  
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Prepared by  
Birds Australia WA Group

## PARROTS AND GALAHS

These birds look for hollows in trees for nesting. They have strong bills for cracking seeds and nuts.

### Australian Ringneck

*Barnardius zonarius*

Ringnecks are often seen feeding on the ground. They have a wide variety of calls.

(B,R,C)



### Galah

*Cacatua roseicapilla*

Galahs have expanded their range south from the Murchison and they now breed around Perth.

(B,R,U)

### Short-billed Black-Cockatoo

*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*

These birds are visitors to the coastal plain in autumn-winter from the wheatbelt. They have developed a taste for seeds of pine trees. Note their weird call, 'wee-yu', when flying.

(V,U)



### Rainbow Lorikeet

*Trichoglossus haematodus*

These lorikeets were introduced from the eastern states in the nineteen-sixties and have now spread widely throughout the metropolitan area. Lorikeets have a brush-tipped tongue for collecting pollen and nectar.

(B,R,M)

## HONEYEATERS

Honeyeaters are found in every major vegetation zone in Australia. They are important pollinators of Australian plants and are very active in their search for nectar and insects.

The following honeyeaters can be found in Kings Park in all seasons.

### Red Wattlebird

*Anthochaera carunculata*

This is the largest of our honeyeaters and is very noisy and aggressive.

(B,R,C)



### Little Wattlebird

*Anthochaera chrysoptera*

The Little Wattlebird is smaller than the Red Wattlebird and can often be seen in the Botanic Garden perched on top of a bush giving its chortling call.

(B,R,M)



### Brown Honeyeater

*Lichmera indistincta*

The Brown Honeyeater has a brownish plumage. It has a number of loud, musical calls.

(B,R,C)



## HONEYEATERS

### Singing Honeyeater

*Lichenostomus virescens*

The Singing Honeyeater prefers open woodland throughout the park. They are Perth's second most common garden bird.

(B,R,C)



### Western Spinebill

*Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*

They are often found feeding in plants below 2m. Note their fine curved beak.

(B,R,M)

### White-cheeked Honeyeater

*Phylidonyris nigra*

The White-cheeked honeyeater can usually be seen in the Botanic Gardens.

(B,R,M)

A similar species, the New Holland Honeyeater, may sometimes be seen.



### Mistletoebird

*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

The Mistletoebird visits the park in search of mistletoe berries or small fruits of introduced plants.

(V,U)

## CUCKOOS

Three cuckoos are regular visitors to Kings Park. Cuckoos lay their eggs in nests of other birds. (hosts)

### Pallid Cuckoo

*Cuculus pallidus*

The Pallid Cuckoo visits Kings Park from May to November and relies on large honeyeaters as host for young.

(B,V,M)



### Fan-tailed Cuckoo

*Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Fan-tailed Cuckoos visit the Perth area in winter. They feed on caterpillars.

(V,U)



### Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

*Chrysococcyx lucidus*

They are usually most common from August to December and migrate to Indonesia in winter.

(B,V,M)

They mostly rely on Thornbills as hosts.

## CROWS AND RAVENS

### Australian Raven

*Corvus coronoides*

Australian Ravens are omnivorous and are often seen feeding in the picnic areas.

(B,R,C)



## FANTAILS

Fantails have a conspicuous fan-like tail. They are restlessly active in their search for insects, grubs and spiders.

### Willy Wagtail

*Rhipidura leucophrys*

These lively birds are usually found on lawns and in open country. They defend their territory aggressively when nesting.

(B,R,C)



### Grey Fantail

*Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Grey fantails are more common from April to November. They are very inquisitive and will often come close to intruders.

(B,V,C)



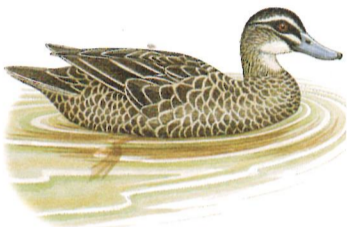
## WATER BIRDS

Several water birds visit the Pioneer Women's Memorial Fountain and others are residents including the following.

### Pacific Black Duck

*Anas superciliosa*

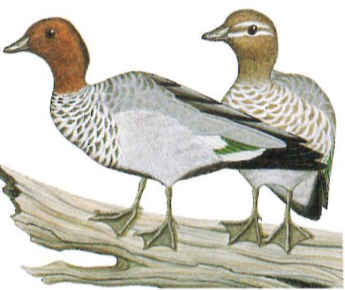
They appear on most lakes and waterways around Perth and are often seen loafing about in the daytime.



### Australian Wood Duck

*Chenonetta jubata*

They are usually nomadic but will remain at a site if food, especially lawn grass, is available.



## GROUND FEEDERS

### Australian Magpie

*Gymnorhina tibicen*

Magpies live in groups in permanent territories where they feed, roost and breed. They are aggressive in breeding season and may swoop on passers-by.

(B,R,C)



### Yellow-rumped Thornbill

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

They are occasionally seen in small flocks along tracks and mown lawns.

(B,R,U)



### Common Bronzewing

*Phaps chalcoptera*

This is a very shy bird which likes to feed on wattle seeds. They come each day at dusk to drink at taps and other watered areas.

(R,U)



### Magpie Lark

*Grallina cyanoleuca*

Magpie Larks are territorial and the young form flocks after breeding. They have a musical call 'tee-he-pee-o'.

(B,R,U)



## GLEANERS

These smaller birds live in the foliage and collect insects from the leaves.

### Western Gerygone

*Gerygone fusca*

They are more often heard than seen, usually singly or in pairs. They have a distinctively mournful call.

((B,R,C))



### Weebill

*Smicronis brevirostris*

The Weebill is Australia's smallest bird and is often heard before it is seen as it moves through the canopy of eucalypts. Listen for its call 'wee-bit'.

(B,R,M)



### Striated Pardalote

*Pardalotus striatus*

Listen for its loud, distinctive call 'chip-chip'. They eat many foods including insects, cells of leaf bugs and sometimes nectar.

(B,R,C)



### Silvereye

*Zosterops lateralis*

Silvereyes move in flocks through the bushes with their contact call of 'psec-psec'. They feed on a wide range of foods including aphids, berries and Marri nectar.

(B,V,C)

## GROUND FEEDERS

### Laughing Turtledove

*Streptopelia senegalensis*

These birds were introduced to Western Australia from Asia in 1898. They are now common around Perth.

(B,R,C)



### Spotted Turtledove

*Streptopelia chinensis*

This is a slightly larger bird than the above and is not as common. It has a black and white patch on back of neck. It was also introduced from Asia.

## AERIAL FEEDERS

### Rainbow Bee-eater

*Merops ornatus*

Their brilliant plumage is obvious as they fly about in search of bees, wasps and dragonflies. They visit Perth from the north in spring and summer.

(B,V,C)



### Welcome Swallow

*Hirundo neoxena*

(R,M)

### Tree Martin

*Hirundo migricans*

(B,R,M)

Can you identify these in their flight for insects?

## PREDATORS

Predators hunt for insects, lizards, small mammals and young birds.

### Grey Butcherbird

*Cracticus torquatus*

Grey Butcherbirds live in permanent territories and prefer bushland bordering parks and open spaces. They have a number of loud melodious calls.

(R,B,M)



### Nankeen Kestrel

*Falco cenchroides*

They are often seen hovering over the scarp at Kings Park in their search for food.

(V,U)



### Brown Goshawk

*Accipiter fasciatus*

They are usually present during winter and spring when nesting in eucalypt trees in the centre of the park. They may swoop on you if you approach the nest.

(V,B,U)



### Laughing Kookaburra

*Dacelo novaeguineae*

The Kookaburra was introduced to Western Australia from Eastern Australia in 1898. It has now spread throughout the South-West.

(R,B,C)

## SOME INTERESTING BIRDS

### Sacred Kingfisher

*Todiramphus sanctus*

The Sacred Kingfisher is a breeding visitor from September to March. It is usually found in the woodland area.

(B,V,M)



### Rufous Whistler

*Pachycephala rufiventris*

This bird is usually found in Jarrah woodland either singly or in pairs. Its loud, musical call is often heard.

(B,R,C)

### Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

*Coracina novaehollandiae*

When perched, notice how they give a peculiar display in which the wings are lifted alternately on the back.

(B,V,C)



### Varied Sittella

*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Flocks of 4-6 birds may be seen spiralling down the branches and trunks of Marri trees in parts of the Botanic Gardens in search of insects under the bark.

(B,R,U)

