

Species Profiles

BIRD PROFILE CODES

Abundance

C – Common  
M – Moderately common  
U – Uncommon  
R – Rare

Breeding

B – Breeds in CRRP

Status

Res – Resident  
Ir – Irregular visitor  
Mi – Migratory  
N – Nomadic  
IA – Protected by international agreement  
T – Threatened

PIGEON, DOVE

LAUGHING DOVE >

Introduced from India, now widespread.  
C, Res, B



< SPOTTED DOVE

Introduced from Africa-Asia. Slightly larger than Laughing Dove, with a spotted collar.  
M, Res



COMMON BRONZEWEING >

Wary, flies noisily. Feeds on the ground. Call is a deep penetrating 'oom oom'. More easily seen early morning or late afternoon.  
R, Res



RAPTOR

Hunters with strongly hooked bills, powerful feet and talons for catching and tearing prey.

OSPREY >

Large raptor whose diet is fish. Nests further downstream.  
U, Ir



< BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE  
Small neat hawk, sometimes mistaken for a Silver Gull. Hovers over open country.  
R, Ir

BROWN GOSHAWK >

U, Res and  
COLLARED SPARROWHAWK  
Both similar. Goshawk has 'glaring' expression, longer rounded tail; often flies through trees when hunting. Sparrowhawk has 'surprised' expression, square tail and more slender legs.  
U, Res



< SWAMP HARRIER

Large, dark raptor with a pale rump. Often cruises over Wilson Lagoon. Nests on ground among dense reeds.  
U, Res

LITTLE EAGLE >

Soars on flat wings with short fanned square tail; 'M' underwing pattern. When perched, note feathered legs and rear head crest.  
U, Ir



< AUSTRALIAN HOBBY  
Small falcon with blackish head and black face. A fast, determined hunter.  
U, Res, B

The Canning River and surrounding areas provide a wide range of habitats for birds. The wetlands and streamline are fringed by melaleucas and Flooded Gums. On the uplands are banksia species, Jarrah and Marri.

Note - a second guide is available, detailing waterbirds found along the Canning River.



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

The South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) is an independent Natural Resource Management body. SERCUL brings together the community, business and government to develop and implement projects that improve the health of our waterways and other ecosystems. For more information contact:

1 Horley Road (off Kenwick Link), Beckenham, WA  
T 08 9458 5664 | www.sercul.org.au |



The Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) lies within the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) and is focused on increasing awareness and understanding of the Canning River and the Park through school and community environmental education programs. CREEC also provides support and facilities for local environmental groups, businesses and government organisations. For more information contact:

Cnr of Kent Street and Queens Park Road, Wilson, WA  
T 08 9461 7160 | creec@canning.wa.gov.au  
www.canning.wa.gov.au/creec/

This guide was jointly funded by SERCUL and CREEC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Members of BirdLife Western Australia are offered a variety of activities and services including conservation and research projects, excursions, campouts, surveys and social activities. There is also a library and books for sale at the office. To view the full range of bird guides visit the website.

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COCKATOO, PARROT

Colourful birds with strong curved bills for eating seeds, nuts, fruit and insects. Most are gregarious, forming flocks. All the species in this area nest in tree hollows.

RED-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO >

Small flocks seen more frequently over recent years. Natural foods are Marri & Jarrah nuts; in CRRP also feeds on Cape Lilac berries. Female has a barred tail.  
M, Ir, T



< CARNABY'S BLACK-COCKATOO

Breeds inland, moves back to the coast late summer – autumn. Feeds on pine, banksia and hakea seeds. Distinctive drawn-out 'wee-yu' call.  
U, Mi, T

GALAH >

Range has expanded south from the Murchison area. Feeds mainly on the ground in small parties.  
C, Res, B



LITTLE CORELLA >

Smallest and plainest corella, with the shortest bill.  
M, Res, B

WESTERN CORELLA >

Slightly larger than Little Corella; has more colour around the face and throat and longer upper bill.  
R, Ir

LONG-BILLED CORELLA >

Long slender upper-bill. Appears to have a bold red slash across breast.  
U, Res



Bush Birds of the Canning River

Sacred Kingfisher: photograph by Kathy Samulkiwicz



COCKATOO, PARROT

< RAINBOW LORIKEET

Derived from aviary escapees in the 1960s. Now occurs all over Perth and beyond. Varied diet of blossoms, seeds, fruit and insects.  
C, Res, B



< AUSTRALIAN RINGNECK

Locally has a mixed yellow – green breast (further south, they are green; to the north yellow). Feeds on ground, in shrubs or higher in trees.  
M, Res, B



RED-CAPPED PARROT >

Bill is adapted for extracting seeds from Marri nuts. Silent feeder but also has a soft chattering call. Female much duller.  
U, Res



CUCKOO

Cuckoos rely on other birds to incubate their eggs and feed their young.

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO >

Note yellow eye-ring. Call is a distinctive downward trill. Present winter – spring. Host species are thornbills & fairy-wrens.  
R, Mi



< SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO

Arrives late winter. Host species are thornbills which build enclosed nests.  
U, Mi



PALLID CUCKOO >

Arrives autumn, leaves early summer. Lays eggs in nests of honeyeaters. Song is a rising scale of mellow whistles.  
R, Mi



Species Profiles

OWL

**SOUTHERN BOOBOOK >**  
Roosts in thick foliage during the day; from dusk it sits watchfully ready to dive on insects. Two note call: 'boo-book'.  
R, Res



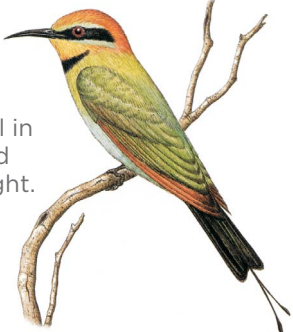
KINGFISHER & BEE-EATER

**LAUGHING KOOKABURRA >**  
Introduced to the South-West of WA from Victoria in the 1890's. Nests in tree hollows.  
M, Res, B



**< SACRED KINGFISHER**  
Returns each September. Nests in hollows. Feeds on insects and small reptiles. Harsh kek kek kek call.  
M, Mi, B

**RAINBOW BEE-EATER >**  
Present Oct - March. Excavates a nesting tunnel in sandy areas. Eats bees and other insects caught in flight.  
M, Mi, B, IA



FAIRY-WREN, GRASSWREN

**SPLENDID FAIRY-WREN >**  
Male in breeding plumage is unmistakable. Prefers dense shrubby areas such as Liege St Wetland. Insectivorous.  
U, Res, B

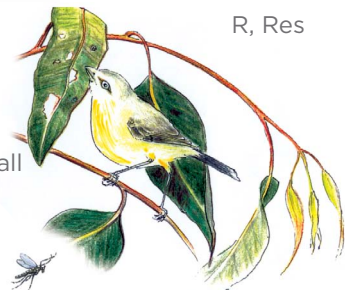


SCRUB-WREN, ALLIES

**< WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN**  
Prefers dense scrub. Feeds on insects and spiders. Strong scolding call when disturbed.  
R, Res



**WEEBILL >**  
Australia's smallest bird. Flutters outside foliage. Strong 'weebee, weebee' call often heard before bird is seen.  
C, Res



**< WESTERN GERYGONE**  
Easily located by its slow, dreamy, wistful call. Searches for insects in foliage.  
M, Res

**YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL >**  
Largest thornbill with bright yellow rump. Feeds in small parties in low foliage or on the ground.  
M, Res, B



**< INLAND THORNBILL**  
Small birds, usually singly or in pairs. The only thornbill that cocks its tail like a wren.  
R, Res.

PARDALOTE

**SPOTTED PARDALOTE >**  
Winter visitor. Feeds on insects. Call is two or three notes: 'dee-dee' or 'sleep dee-dee'.  
U, Mi



**< STRIATED PARDALOTE**  
Colourful small bird. Searches for leaf bugs among eucalypt foliage. Two note 'chip-chip' call. Nests in tree hollows.  
C, Res, B

HONEYEATER

A large group of birds found throughout Australia. They feed on nectar using slender curved bills and long brush-tipped tongues. They also eat insects.

**WESTERN SPINEBILL >**  
More likely in autumn. Feeds mainly in the lower branches. Note fine curved bill. Female much less colourful.  
R, Ir

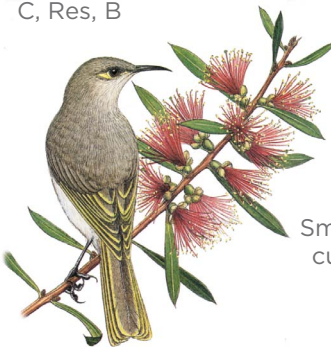


**< SINGING HONEYEATER**  
Common garden bird, smaller than wattlebirds. Note the black stripe through the eye.  
C, Res, B

**WESTERN WATTLEBIRD >**  
Rarely seen in CRRP though occurs in nearby gardens. Note dark shading on chin and throat and copper in wings. Chortling call is less raucous than Red Wattlebirds.  
R, N



**RED WATTLEBIRD >**  
The largest of our honeyeaters with fleshy, red neck wattles. Noisy and aggressive to other birds.  
C, Res, B



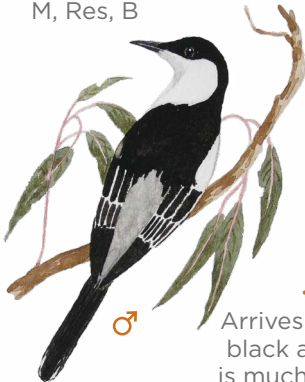
**< BROWN HONEYEATER**  
Small honeyeater with a long curved bill. Has a number of loud, musical calls.  
C, Res/N, B

**NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER >**  
More common in CRRP over recent years. Active, noisy. Note yellow wing panel and high-pitched call.  
C, Res, B



CUCKOO-SHRIKE, TRILLER

**BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE >**  
Diet is insects, berries and seeds. Shuffles wings on landing; distinctive undulating flight.  
M, Res, B



**< WHITE-WINGED TRILLER**  
Arrives in early summer. The male's black and white breeding plumage is much more striking than female's brown colouring.  
R, Mi, B

BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG



**GREY BUTCHERBIRD >**  
Song is a mellow piping. Sits quietly in a tree before diving on its prey.  
M, Res, B



**< AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE**  
Lives in groups, proclaims territory by melodious song. Feeds on small reptiles and insects. Male's back is white; female's back is mottled. C, Res, B

FANTAIL

**GREY FANTAIL >**  
Present all the year, more numerous in winter-spring. Inquisitive. Catches insects in flight.  
C, Res/Mi, B



**< WILLIE WAGTAIL**  
Bold, active, conspicuous. Prefers open areas. Feeds on insects, spiders and worms.  
C, Res, B

RAVEN, CROW

**AUSTRALIAN RAVEN >**  
Ominivorous. Wary, intelligent; capitalises on presence of humans. Builds a substantial stick nest.  
C, Res, B



WHISTLER & MONARCH



**< RUFOUS WHISTLER**  
Spirited song. In non-breeding season, usually solitary. Female is much plainer with streaked breast.  
M, Res, B

**MAGPIE-LARK >**  
Mud nest builders which retain same mate and territory for life. Male has a black chin.  
M, Res, B



WHITE-EYE

**SILVEREYE >**  
Moves in flocks searching for grubs, aphids, berries and nectar. Has a number of thin, high calls.  
C, Res/N, B



SWALLOW, MARTIN

**< WELCOME SWALLOW**  
Present all year; more abundant in summer. Builds a mud nest. Catches insects in flight.  
C, Res/Mi, B



**TREE MARTIN >**  
Most abundant in summer. Breeds in hollows. Pale rump and only slightly forked tail distinguishes them from swallows.  
M, Mi, B

FLOWERPECKER



**< MISTLETOEBIRD**  
Moves locally, usually to find fruiting mistletoe. Also eats other berries and insects. Female is lighter with pale red under tail.  
M, N

Dedicated to the late Allan Jones, who produced so many bird guides for Birds Australia WA (now BirdLife WA).