



Australian Raven

This intelligent and adaptable bird is not a crow, note 'beard-like' throat hackles. Australia has two crow and three raven species. Protracted wailing call.

52cm



Pied Currawong

Expanding in Sydney. Mainly black with white on wings and rump, more easily seen in flight. Listen for a chiming, bell-like call.

45cm



Australian Magpie

A familiar suburban bird, males may be aggressive during the breeding season. Has a wide variety of calls including a liquy warble.

40cm



Grey Butcherbird

Note the hook-tipped beak for impaling and 'butchering' small animals. Has a loud, complex piping call.

21cm



Magpie-lark

This mud-nester is also known as a peewee due to its loud, raucous call. Note the different facial markings between the male and female (foreground).

28cm



Willie Wagtail

A feisty little bird with a big attitude, it's in the eyebrows. Calls range from a chirpy whistle to a scolding chatter.

21cm



Pacific Koel

This summer visitors familiar 'coo-eee' call is well-known, also clacks and whoops. The male is black, females/young are mottled/cream.

42cm



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Not a cuckoo or a shrike, this handsome bird can be seen in suburban parklands. Also called a 'Bifcus' (BFCs) or 'shufflewing'.

33cm



Red-rumped Parrot

Sometimes called grass parrot, only colourful males have red rumps, females are olive. Has a fast, chirpy call.

26cm



Eastern Rosella

Extremely colourful, this beautiful rosella has a soft piping call. The **Crimson Rosella** is red with blue wings.

31cm



Musk Lorikeet

A small, green lorikeet, red band not easy to see when foraging in foliage. Smaller size and faster, higher-pitched 'metallic' call help ID from Rainbow.

22cm



Little Lorikeet

The smallest lorikeet blends with the foliage when foraging among noisy lorikeet flocks. Smaller, faster and higher pitched call than the Musk.

15cm



Galah

Used to describe people displaying comical antics. This pink and grey cockatoo species is a common sight in suburban parklands.

35cm



Yellow-tailed Cockatoo

Can appear in large flocks in Sydney, especially in winter. Slow graceful flight with a haunting call.

62cm



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

An iconic bird with a long yellow crest is often swept back but stands up when excited. Listen for loud, screeching calls

47cm



Little Corella

Can occur in huge flocks, listen for gentle, 'laughing' call. Look for the **Long-billed Corella** which has red 'slice' across its chest.

37cm



Black-shouldered Kite

Small, pale **Elanus Kite**, often seen hovering over grassland. Other kites such as **Whistling** or **Square-tailed Kite** are much larger.

35-38cm



Nankeen Kestrel

This small, 'nankeen' -coloured falcon also hover when hunting for mice, reptiles and large insects.

30-35cm



Peregrine Falcon

Powerful, solid build. Most urbanised raptor nesting in buildings and feeding on pigeons. Fastest recorded bird, stooping at 200kph.

35-50cm



Brown Goshawk

Widespread hawk found in open woodland. Similar to smaller **Collared Sparrowhawk**.

40-50cm

Non-native (introduced) 'pests' ?

The much-maligned Common (formally Indian) Myna has adapted well to car parks and shopping centres, introduced species may have a negative impact on native wildlife, loss of habitat is a far greater problem.

...from Asia

Common Myna



Red-whiskered Bulbul



Spotted Dove



Nutmeg Mannikin



...from Europe

Common Starling



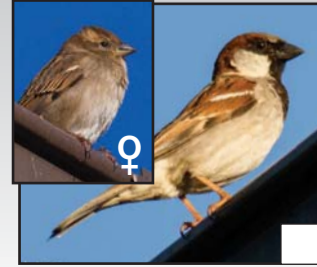
Common Blackbird



Rock Dove



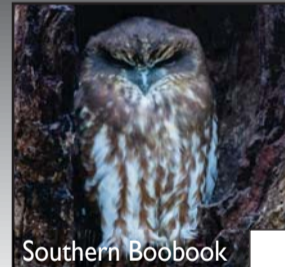
House Sparrow



Nocturnal Birds

They only come out at night! (or may be found roosting during the day).

The Southern Boobook is one of five owl species found in the Sydney region, the Tawny Frogmouth is often encountered in suburban gardens.



Southern Boobook



Tawny Frogmouth

Suburban Parks

With many Sydney 'Green Spaces' comprising of sports ovals and landscaped gardens, species that favour these man-made landscapes have enjoyed success and are relatively easy to find for beginners.



Masked Lapwing



Welcome Swallow

Since European settlement much of western Sydney's habitat has been cleared for timber and farming, known as Cumberland Plain Woodland, less than 7% remains. Now more than ever increased urban development, introduced plants and animals continue to threaten many bird species found in this delicate and unique ecosystem.

The birds featured here are 78 relatively common species found in Sydney, see if you can tick all the birds in this leaflet - you'll probably find many that aren't! You may want to buy a field guide and binoculars and try to identify the other 365 species that occur in the Sydney region, it's a lot of fun and it's free!

One way to 'tune in' is to listen to the calls, many birds are easier to hear than to see and each one has a unique sound Start small, ie magpie, raven, get to know your local patch. Hone your skills by joining a club, attending outings or volunteering for conservation projects - Australia needs more birdsos.

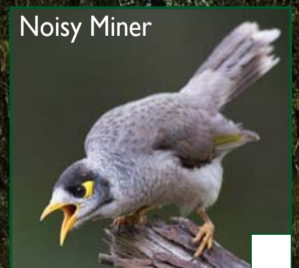


Cover image: Cumberland Plain Woodland at Nurragingy Reserve, Doonside
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A Photo Guide to The BIRDS of WESTERN SYDNEY



Rainbow Lorikeet



Noisy Miner



Crested Pigeon



Laughing Kookaburra

Monochromes

Parrots

Raptors



Scarlet Honeyeater

Tiny and fast, hard to see. Listen for the brightly coloured male whistling a sweet tune high in the tree tops.

12cm



Eastern Spinebill

Look for this small, colourful honeyeater flitting around in branches or hovering like a hummingbird. Loud, rapid whistle.

14cm



Yellow-faced Honeyeater

A small, common honeyeater. A loud 'chirrup' or a small 'chip-chip' call in flight, often heard as migratory flocks fly overhead.

16cm



White-plumed Honeyeater

May be found in gardens. Look for grey-green honeyeater with a yellowish head and white streaks on the neck.

14cm



New Holland Honeyeater

This heathland bird has adapted well to suburban gardens. Quite noisy, call consists of loud high-pitched whistles.

16cm



Bell Miner

Also known as the bellbird due to its chiming call. Olive green with orange/yellow feet. Expanding colonies can create problems.

26cm



Red Wattlebird

Has a cackling call like a Claxton horn. Larger size, red wattles and a yellow belly help ID this species from the Little Wattlebird.

28cm



Noisy Friarbird

Sydney's largest honeyeater is vulture-like, its bald head and neck ruff useful when feeding in large, sticky flowers.

28cm



Red-browed Finch

The most common of six Sydney finch species, four of which are native. Found in damp, grassy areas or creekside vegetation.

12cm



Superb Fairy-wren

Sometimes called blue wrens. Listen for high pitched squeaks or loud song in rough grassland. Females (inset) are plainer.

14cm



White-browed Scrubwren

The most common of Sydney's three scrubwren species. Often calls loudly while hiding in dense, shrubby vegetation.

13cm



Silvereye

Small feeding flocks move through shrubs. Listen for tuneful whistles. In Winter look for rufous-flanked birds from Tasmania.

12cm



Grey Fantail

This common woodland bird is related to the Willie Wagtail and has the same bold disposition. Listen for a short high-pitched tune.

16cm



Yellow Thornbill

Smallest and most common of Sydney's five thornbill species. Listen for sharp chips and buzzes as they flit around in trees.

10cm



Spotted Pardalote

Look for a small bird foraging high in canopies or listen for a two-note whistle. Pronounced 'par-da-lote', also look for Striated Pardalote.

10cm



Mistletoebird

As the name suggests, this species is associated with mistletoe. Look for small birds flitting between mistletoe-infested trees. Females are grey with red beaks.

10cm



Grey Shrike-thrush

What this bird lacks in colour it makes up with its voice; a distinctive song with a haunting quality.

26cm



Rufous Whistler

The male is quite distinctive, the female has a streaked chest. Loud whistles and 'eee-chong' call heard in summer months.

19cm



Golden Whistler

An altitudinal winter migrant to Sydney. Females and young birds are quite plain. Listen for loud 'seep' in winter months.

18cm



Crested Shrike-tit

A striking-looking bird with a black and white head, and a powerful beak for ripping at bark. Has a mournful whistle and a chuckling call.

18cm



Eastern Yellow Robin

This medium-sized bird is the most widespread of the six robin species recorded in Sydney. Repeated 'Tew' call is heard in mornings.

16cm



Olive-backed Oriole

A green bird, with a heavily streaked white chest, look for the red eye and beak. Call sounds like 'or-ee-ol'.

26cm



Fan-tailed Cuckoo

One of eight Sydney cuckoos, ranging from small striped **Bronze-cuckoos** to the huge, squawking **Channel-billed Cuckoo**.

26cm



Sacred Kingfisher

A summer visitor to many of Sydney's woodlands where it nests in hollows. It is variable in colour and has a 'barking' call.

21cm



Pacific Black Duck

Former name of Painted Duck more suits this handsome bird. 'Flashes' can be green or blue, depending on light.

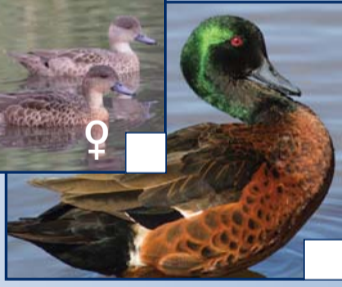
54cm



Australian Wood Duck

Formerly known as Maned Goose. Often nests high in tree hollows and has a distinctive 'weoww' call.

46cm



Chestnut and Grey Teal

The male Chestnut Teal is unmistakable. Females (top, inset), may be confused with the similar-looking **Grey Teal**, note pale throat.

43cm



Hardhead

This nomadic diving duck may stay inland if conditions are favourable. Formerly known as 'white-eye', females have brown eyes.

54cm



Purple Swamphen

More of a blue/black sheen than purple, with a red 'shield'. Noisy and found in swampy reed-beds or long grass.

46cm



Dusky Moorhen

Smaller and shyer than the swamphen, its red bill tipped with yellow. Conspicuous outer white tail feathers from behind.

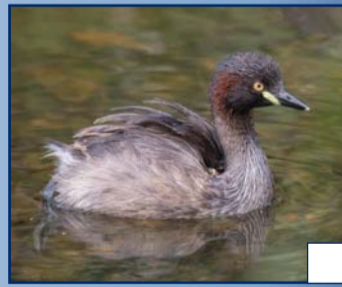
38cm



Eurasian Coot

A white 'shield' gives rise to the saying 'bald as a Coot'. Can occur in huge flocks on large bodies of water.

40cm



Australasian Grebe

Fluffy, most abundant of the three Sydney grebe species. An expert diver, it will submerge to escape danger.

36cm



Great and Little Black Cormorant

Size and a white patch on the throat help identify the Great Cormorant from the Little Black Cormorant.

82cm / 60cm



Little Pied Cormorant

Often seen on dams and inland waterways. Similar to the larger **Pied Cormorant**, which is a coastal species.

60cm



White-faced Heron

The most common of the Sydney's four heron species. Pale grey with a variable amount of white on the face and neck.

68cm



Great Egret

The largest of Sydney's egret species, with a long, 'S' shaped neck. Look for **Intermediate**, **Little** or the **Cattle Egret** associating with livestock in paddocks.

90cm



Azure Kingfisher

This small riverine kingfisher may be hard to spot among shady branches or zipping fast and low along creeklines.

17cm



Black Swan

Our only native swan, found on large bodies of water. Black, with a red bill and white-tipped wings, which look spectacular when seen in flight.

120cm



Australian Pelican

Found in both coastal and inland waterways. May be seen flying high on thermals, or information, looking like squadrons of planes.

170cm



Australian White Ibis

This familiar wetland bird has adapted well to scavenging in suburban Sydney. The **Straw-necked Ibis** has dark back/wings.

70cm