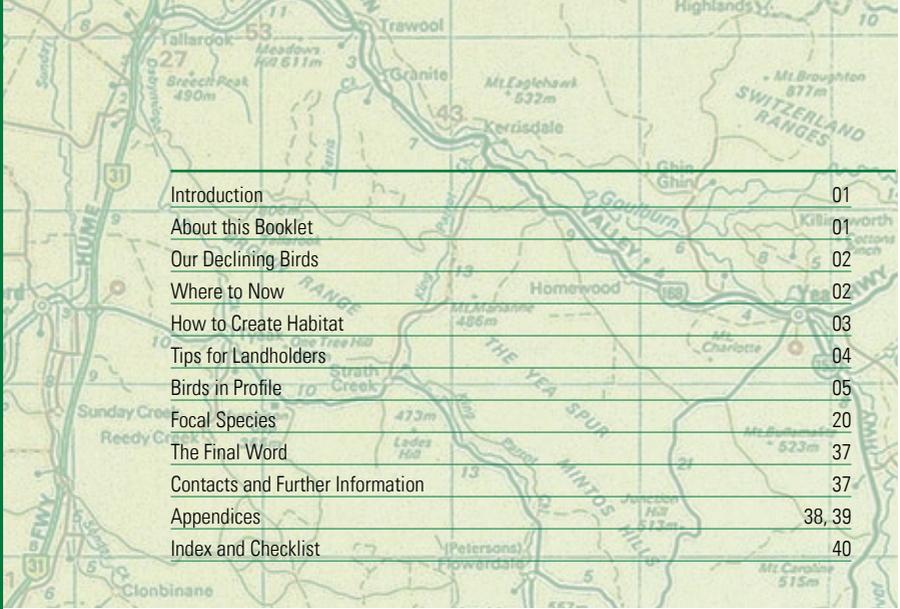


Birds of the lower King Parrot Valley



Then, Now and the Future?
Strath Creek Landcare Group



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The Strath Creek Landcare Group

The Strath Creek Landcare Group membership currently covers 66 households with a majority of members participating in Landcare activities. The group is part of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network which embraces a total of 11 Landcare Groups. New members are always welcome.

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Special thanks for advice and assistance from Bridget Clarke, Simon Kearney, Peter Mitchell, Barbara Moss, Nola Philip and Lance Williams.

Photo Credits

Photographic images were generously provided by

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Cover Photos

Front – Main photo: Crested Shrike-tit (**GC**). Insets (L to R): Brown Treecreeper (**GC**), Jacky Winter (**SH**), Hooded Robin (**GC**).

Back – Main photo: King Parrot Creek (**DJ**). Insets: King Parrot (**GC**) and Southern Whiteface (**GC**).

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Introduction

The Strath Creek Landcare group has, since its inception, been actively involved in revegetation plantings throughout the Landcare area, which essentially covers the lower King Parrot Valley below Hazeldene, including a number of tributary valleys feeding to the King Parrot Creek. The motivations for these plantings were varied, but generally involved an awareness of the need to redress the degradation of creeklines, erosion gullies, paddock trees, etc., and also to increase the habitat for wildlife. There is a strong interest in wildlife, especially birds, within the group, as evidenced by the high attendance at talks and field days on topics related to wildlife that have been held by the group.

More interest in local birds was sparked by local identity John Hatchell-Brown who provided a list of birds recorded by his father at their Flowerdale property “The Willows” over the period 1937 – 1968 (see Appendix 1). This property had both a King Parrot Creek frontage and a connection to the Mt. Disappointment forest at

the back, so was an ideal spot to attract a large range of birds, some of which may rarely if ever venture into the drier, more open parts of the valley around Strath Creek. Also some of the more unusual birds recorded may well have been vagrants, possibly during drought years.

Nonetheless, the Hatchell-Brown list was seen as a valuable legacy, and prompted an interest by the Landcare group to begin a

project that would focus attention within the community on local birds, and would survey and document birds for comparison with both historical and future records. This was seen as a way of gauging the effectiveness, in terms of bringing back birds, of the large-scale revegetation that has occurred and continues to occur in the Landcare area.

About This Booklet

As part of the Landcare group’s ongoing bird project it was decided to produce a booklet that would maintain the group’s focus on creating and improving wildlife habitat. The booklet aims to serve partly as an identification guide, but mostly as a brief educational and historical reference for both existing and future Landcare members. It is hoped that this booklet will be relevant to other groups in the Network, particularly the Yellow Creek-Dairy Creek Landcare Group that adjoins Strath Creek’s area to the north and has overlapping membership in the King Parrot Valley.

It is beyond the scope of this booklet to cover all bird species that may possibly be found in the area. Instead we have compiled a snapshot of about 100 birds which have been observed, might be observed and hopefully will be observed if our revegetation efforts are successful. This may help to overcome the frustration felt by many members when having to wade through field guides for the whole of Australia to find a particular local bird.



GC

Our Declining Birds

Many of our birds, especially those that are dependent on or associated with woodland, are declining in numbers and in the extent of their range. The primary reason for this decline is the loss of suitable habitat, with remaining habitat generally fragmented and degraded. Research has shown that, within a rural landscape, there is a clear link between overall vegetation cover and bird species. The number of woodland-dependent species drops as the percentage of native vegetation in the landscape falls below about 30% and, below a threshold level of about 10% vegetation, the number of species plummets as local extinctions occur.

Different species require different amounts and types of vegetation cover in the landscape to sustain healthy populations. As a rule of thumb to ensure the sustainability of most woodland species an average of around 30% cover on a broad landscape scale should be the aim. This, of course, does not mean every property needs to achieve such a level of vegetation, but if, across the whole Landcare area, we could establish connected patches of vegetation cover approaching 30%, we would be well on the way to ensuring the survival and return of many declining birds.

Where to Now?

The lower King Parrot Valley would once have supported a wide range of vegetation and habitats, and accordingly a great variety of birds. As the landscape has been modified by clearing for agriculture, many species have inevitably been lost from the district. We will never be able to replicate the original landscape even on a small scale. However, with thoughtful planning and appropriate revegetation/regeneration, a diversity of bird habitats can be recreated. The success or otherwise of plantings in the valley will only be judged in the long-term by both a halt in the decline of some existing species and the return of other sensitive species previously recorded.

We in the Strath Creek area are fortunate in that, although much of the valley has undergone extensive clearing, there are very significant areas of bushland reserve not far away in the Mt. Disappointment and Tallarook State Forests. These forests almost certainly support small populations of some declining bird species, such as Brown Treecreeper and Hooded Robin that, with habitat restoration, may be encouraged to recolonize the King Parrot Valley.

It is important to realise that individual efforts, and certainly group efforts, can and do make a difference in the rural landscape. Size of property is not important, as every patch of habitat contributes to the mosaic on which birds and other wildlife depend.



How to Create Habitat

The basic requirements of birds are food, water and shelter (including nest sites). The most important factors that influence the response of birds and other wildlife to revegetated areas are the diversity of plantings, the size of the area planted and the location of the area in the landscape, e.g. distance to water or remnant bush.

Diversity can be achieved through a range of plant sizes, plant densities, foliage and bark types, flowering times and food sources (nectar producers, seed/berry producers, insect attractors). Over the whole property try to achieve a range of habitats—dense bush, open woodland, grassland (moderately-grazed native pasture), creekside and wetland (protected dams and swampy areas).

The simple rule for size of habitat areas is “the bigger the better”. But this is not always possible or practical, and any attempt at habitat restoration is better than none. Simple ways to provide larger habitat areas are to fence off corners of paddocks, add blocks out from existing windbreaks and use straight fences along meandering creeklines. However the most effective way to increase the size and value of habitat plantings is to connect to remnant vegetation patches (your own or State Forest, creekside, roadside etc.), either directly or via corridor plantings. These should ideally be as wide as possible and can be designed to follow natural features such as gullies or ridges.

Ideas on habitat creation are summarised under Tips for Landholders on page 04. Remember, if starting from scratch, protect your best quality native remnant vegetation first, i.e. any wooded area that has a complex understorey to encourage birds. When planning habitat, seek advice from other residents, department officers and available literature (see Contacts and Further Information on page 37).



Tips for Landholders to encourage birds back

- Fence off areas of remnant bush, which often have marginal grazing value anyway. Also consider fencing off large isolated paddock trees. Environment management grants may be available for suitable sites.
- If you have little or no remnant vegetation, establish your own habitat block by fencing out and planting trees and as wide a range of local shrubs and groundflora species as possible. Don't forget that not all birds like dense bush, so leave some open patches in larger plantings. Natural regeneration and direct seeding are other options to consider.
- Plant corridors to connect up revegetation plantings and protected remnants with each other and with surrounding forests and creeklines. The wider the corridors the better. Again, investigate the availability of grants for this work.
- Leave fallen timber, sticks and leaf litter. Consider establishing a woodlot to reduce the need for firewood collection in future.
- Leave dead standing trees which provide perches and nest hollows for many native birds, as well as mammals.
- Encourage native grasses by not over-grazing or over-fertilizing, especially on hill country.
- Ensure water is available. Most birds will travel some distance to water but seed-eaters such as finches need a protected source close to their habitat. When planning revegetation sites consider location of existing water sources such as troughs. Fencing off dams allows vegetation establishment around the edge which provides protection for birds.
- Consider providing artificial nest boxes, but only if you are prepared to inspect them regularly and evict unwanted occupants such as bees and mynas.
- Control foxes and cats by shooting, baiting or trapping. Unfortunately some of your efforts to improve bird habitat will also encourage these predators.
- Consider conservation programs such as Bush Returns, CarbonSmart or covenanting through Trust for Nature. Information on these is available through DSE, DPI or CMA (see p37).



Birds in Profile

In the following section a range of local birds is presented with notes and images. The selection of species was based on reported sightings by local residents and records from the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife. In most cases where there is a gender difference in plumage the more colourful adult male is shown.

This is a group of common and mostly familiar birds.

Australian Magpie

A very common and abundant bird that has benefited from clearing of bush and adapted well to farmland.



IM



SA

Pied Currawong

Large forest bird that has adapted to treed farmland, parks and gardens, and can now be seen year round in the district.

Grey Currawong

Another regular visitor or resident, usually less numerous than the Pied Currawong. Can often be seen or heard prising bark from trees to get at insects. Its call is a ringing "cling-cling", as well as a surprising range of other notes.



GC



GC

Grey Butcherbird

In the same family as the Magpie and Currawongs, but less common. A medium-sized carnivore that feeds mainly on insects, but also larger prey such as small birds and reptiles, which it may wedge in the fork of a tree branch. Unobtrusive when perched among foliage, it is usually first detected by its loud, rich song.

Ravens

Familiar large black birds in the valley, often mistakenly called crows.

The **Australian Raven** can be distinguished by its raised throat hackles when giving its slow drawn-out call.



GC

The **Little Raven** is more gregarious and large flocks can often be seen in local paddocks.



GC

White-winged Chough

Large black bird with a long tail and red eyes (compared with the currawongs' yellow eyes and ravens' white eyes). Sociable and territorial, groups of choughs can be seen on roadsides, in windbreaks and in remnant bush. Group members participate in all aspects of breeding, including building their large mud nest. A ground forager that benefits from farm tree plantings and fenced-off bush areas with lots of leaf and stick litter. Has a strange mournful call. White wing patch visible in flight.



IM



BW

Magpie-lark /

Smaller than, and unrelated to, the magpie, this is a common bird around farms. Its loud call sung by pairs as a duet would be familiar to most people. Also builds a mud nest but smaller than that of the chough.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

An elegant grey bird with jet-black face-mask, it has an unusual chirring song. Most birds migrate north for winter, so only occasionally seen here at that time. A tree-dweller that feeds mostly on large insects, it benefits from farm tree plantings.

A related species, the **White-winged Triller**, can occasionally be seen here in spring/summer.



SH

Parrots and Cockatoos

The commonly seen species in our area have mostly benefited from, or adapted to, changes to the landscape and land usage—unlike some other more specialized and sensitive members of this group (e.g. the Orange-bellied and Swift Parrots and Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in Victoria).

Australian King Parrot

An iconic bird for the district because of the creek bearing its name which is the focus of much of the Landcare group's revegetation and weed control work. Normally a bird of heavily timbered mountain country, it has adapted to European settlement, and can be seen in more open country and even home gardens if suitable food (fruit, seeds, blossoms, etc.) is available. Absent from our area for many years, it returned in 2003 and small numbers are now regularly seen around Strath Creek. It would be heartening to think revegetation work in the district has contributed to its return.



GC



IM

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

A large cockatoo with a strange, wailing call. Feeds on seeds of hakeas, banksias and introduced pine trees, but also on insects on the ground and grubs in the sap-wood of trees. Nomadic or migratory, even to Tasmania.

Often seen around Strath Creek area in small groups or flocks of up to 100 or so. A majestic flyer with slow, deep wing-beats.

Gang-gang Cockatoo ?

A smaller grey cockatoo, with the male having a striking bright red head and crest. Feeds inconspicuously on seeds of native trees and shrubs as well as berries of introduced plants such as hawthorn. Often noticed by its "creaky door" call in flight. Seems to have suffered more from habitat loss than the other cockatoos in this area, and is listed as a declining species.



GC

Galah

A distinctive pink and grey cockatoo that has expanded its range since European settlement and is now found over most of Australia. Often seen in pairs or flocks, usually feeding on the ground. Like other cockatoos, can be very noisy.



IM

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

This bird should need no introduction. It is a familiar (and noisy) presence all year round in the district. Often associates with corellas.



IM

Corellas

Locals report that **Long-billed Corellas** first started to appear in this area in the mid-90's, when a few birds were noticed associating with the abundant flocks of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. Numbers have steadily increased, presumably due to more feeding out of grain by farmers during drought years.



GC

Recently some **Little Corellas** have joined the mixed flocks of white birds. These are slightly smaller, have a more prominent crest and shorter bill, and lack the red "cut throat" appearance of the Long-billed.



GC

All birds in this grouping nest in tree hollows, so the retention of large trees, either living or dead, is vital to their breeding success.

Musk Lorikeet

The most commonly seen of the lorikeets in our Landcare area, although the more colourful **Rainbow Lorikeet** has been recorded in the Flowerdale area. Often seen in small groups passing overhead like bullets, issuing their distinctive metallic screech. They will settle in flowering eucalypts to feed on pollen and nectar where they are well camouflaged. May also be in company with the **Little Lorikeet**.



IM

Crimson Rosella

A familiar parrot of farmland, open woodland and moister forests. Feeds on a wide range of seeds and fruit. Outside the breeding period they form into flocks where predominantly green immature birds may outnumber adults.



GC

Eastern Rosella

Less common and shyer here than the Crimson Rosella, this colourful parrot is still a familiar sight in our area. Usually seen in pairs or small groups in gardens, paddocks, roadsides, windbreak plantings and open woodland—often feeding on the ground.



GC

Red-rumped Parrot

A small parrot that spends much of its time feeding on the ground. When disturbed, groups fly swiftly up into nearby trees, issuing a pleasant contact call. With the clearing of woodlands this bird has expanded its range towards the coasts in south-eastern Australia. Long-term residents can remember a time when Red-rumped Parrots were absent from the Flowerdale/Strath Creek area.



IM

Australia is blessed with some wonderful singing birds and in fact is now known to be the origin of all the world's songbirds. A few vocal locals are included here.

Golden Whistler

A medium-sized woodland bird with a range of beautiful calls, one with a whip-crack ending. Regularly seen in the district, particularly along creeklines, vegetated gullies and around gardens. The male is much more colourful than the brownish female.



GC

Rufous Whistler

Another wonderful songster, specially at breeding time. Migrates north in autumn, so not seen here in May, June and July. At other times, is fairly common but may be vulnerable without protection and expansion of habitat.

The **Olive Whistler** is another bird in this group that, although uncommon, may possibly be seen in or near the more densely forested parts of the district.



GC

Grey Shrike-thrush

A common and well-known bird with a lovely range of song-notes. Often seen in gardens and nesting around houses or sheds. Found throughout Australia in woodland and open forests, but does not readily cross large gaps between habitat patches, and may be struggling to maintain resilient sustainable populations.



IM

Some birds commonly seen in gardens are not necessarily secure, and are in fact on the threshold of rapid decline due to reduction and fragmentation of their natural habitat.

A number of local birds prefer open grassy areas and farm paddocks can provide such an environment.

Stubble Quail

A regular spring/summer visitor heralded by its distinctive "titchy-wit" call. It's the culprit that scares the wits out of you when flushed from long grass, flying fast and low for some distance before landing in cover. Occasionally seen on roadsides.



GC



GC

Australian Pipit

A well-camouflaged slender ground-dwelling bird. Runs jerkily along ground searching for a range of insects. When disturbed flies to a stump, rock or fence-line, showing its white-edged tail which it wags up and down.

White-fronted Chat ?

A gregarious small ground-feeding bird seen in low-lying paddocks and near dams. Walks or runs in jerks with head nodding. Some locals report that sightings of this bird have declined in recent years.



GC

Ground-nesting birds are vulnerable when cover is removed by over-grazing or slashing of tussocks and rushes. An "island" of unmown grass left in a hay paddock provides a refuge for birds such as quail.

The small active birds in this grouping, although often hard to see, play a vital role in controlling insects and keeping trees healthy.

Weebill

The smallest Australian bird. Has a surprisingly loud voice which is often the first indication of its presence. Its short stubby bill distinguishes it from thornbills, with which it may associate as it forages busily in groups among the tree canopy, often hovering.



GC



GC

Yellow Thornbill

Not unlike the Weebill in appearance and habits, it has the typical sharp pointed bill of thornbills with which it gleans insects from the foliage of trees and taller shrubs. Prefers denser canopies, so is often hard to detect, since it is usually solitary or in small loose groups.

Striated Thornbill

Another of those hard-to-identify "little brown birds", it feeds exclusively in tree canopies, often high up. Has quite a soft voice so is not easy to detect. Unlike the Yellow Thornbill can often be found in fairly large groups.



BW

Varied Sittella

Rather odd little bird that flits through foliage in groups, acrobatically searching for food on leaves and under bark, often upside down. Has a slightly up-turned sharp bill and very short tail. Roosts and breeds communally.



CT



DW

Silvereye

A common visitor in gardens, especially in the warmer months. Easily identified by its white eye-ring, but often unobtrusive. Feeds on insects, nectar, fruit and even seeds. Emits regular contact calls in flight and when feeding, and a distinctive song from a high exposed perch, especially at breeding time.

White-throated Gerygone

This tiny bird is usually first noticed by its beautiful prolonged descending song, especially around breeding time. A very active insect eater, often hovering around the foliage of trees as it picks off prey.



GC

Pardalotes

Tiny colourful birds with stubby bills and short tails. Feed mainly on insects in eucalypt foliage. Are particularly fond of psyllid insects and their sugary coatings called lerps, which cause so much foliage damage, especially to River Red Gums.

The **Spotted Pardalote** nests at the end of a burrow dug into a bank, or opportunistically in a range of man-made structures.

The slightly larger **Striated Pardalote** nests in tree hollows or earth banks, often in loose colonies.



IM



GC



GC

Mistletoebird

This tiny bird is the main disperser of mistletoes. Has a specialised digestive system that allows rapid passage of sticky mistletoe seeds which it excretes on a tree branch. Also eats insects. Usually solitary outside breeding period.

The much-maligned mistletoe is an important component of woodland ecosystems. Many mistletoes flower when other food sources for birds are scarce, and nearly 60 Australian birds have been recorded nesting in mistletoe. Excessive mistletoe reflects a wider problem of an environment under stress. Larger plantings with understorey shrubs encourage mistletoe predators such as possums and butterflies.

These birds are mostly seen in lower foliage or on the ground. They need ground cover and understorey shrubs for protection.

Brown Thornbill

A common adaptable small brown bird found mainly in shrubs and lower tree branches, although can also forage high up in trees and even on the ground. Similar in appearance to the Striated Thornbill (see p.13) but streaks are less pronounced and confined to the throat/breast area. Has a wide range of calls.



Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Mostly a ground feeder, it benefits from the “edge” habitat created where farm plantings meet open paddocks. Communal, and can be seen in groups of up to 30. Yellow rump obvious when they fly with their characteristic jerky flight, calling “chip-chip” as they go.

Buff-rumped Thornbill

Somewhat similar to the Yellow-rumped Thornbill in appearance and habits. Feeds in groups on the ground and in low branches, typically in open stringybark country with some understorey. Likes rough rocky ground with tussocks and tree litter.



Many small birds are reluctant to travel any significant distance across open country. Wide windbreak plantings, as well as benefiting livestock, can link remnant patches of bush and provide corridors for wildlife to travel through.

White-browed Scrubwren

Widespread and common little ground-feeding bird. Busy and curious, it is found in undergrowth along gullies and creeklines, in bracken patches and in gardens. Benefits from fallen timber and retained tussocks. Can nest in a range of man-made objects, e.g. motorcycle helmet, golf bag.



GC

Superb Fairy-wren

One of our most familiar small birds. Living in family groups, it can be seen around gardens and further afield in bracken or blackberry patches and creekside vegetation. "Brown birds" comprise females and males in non-breeding plumage.



GC

Red-browed Finch

A common easily identified little bird with its red bill, eyebrow and rump. Male has an unusual courtship ritual of holding a grass stalk in its bill while hopping up and down to impress female. Nest is large and untidy, often in a prickly shrub.



GC

A striking small finch, the **Diamond Firetail**, was recorded at Flowerdale in the past, but would now be an unlikely sighting due to reduction of its habitat of eucalypt woodland with native grassy understorey.

Including prickly shrubs such as Hedge Wattle, Prickly Moses, Sweet Bursaria and Tree Violet in understorey plantings provides good protection and nest sites for small birds. Blackberry thickets also provide habitat, so after spraying blackberries leave the dead canes to break down. If in a fenced-off area, plant local shrubs as replacement habitat.

There are several other woodland birds that may be seen in the district. Some of the more common are described below.

White-throated Treecreeper

A common smallish dark brown bird, often solitary. Pale wing-bar seen in flight. Hunts for food (mainly ants) under bark of tree trunks and branches, moving upwards in a spiral. Sleeps clinging upright to a tree (or even a brick wall!). Voice is a loud prolonged series of piping notes—also a mellow trill.



GC



GC

Dusky Woodswallow

Unrelated to true swallows, this is a regular visitor to the area in the warmer months. Soars and glides to catch insects in flight. Lives communally, and groups huddle together when perched, sometimes in a tight cluster in a tree hollow.

The nomadic **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows** are other possible sightings in this area.

Olive-backed Oriole

A medium-sized bird of eucalypt woodland and open forest, but also adapted to gardens, parks and orchards. Feeds on fruit and insects in the tree canopy. Often solitary, and first detected by its far-carrying "orry-orry-ol" call. Migrates north for winter.



GC

Rufous Songlark

A loud ringing song announces the presence of this otherwise inconspicuous bird. Feeds in low foliage and on the ground. Also nests on the ground, so needs tussocks and fallen logs for protection. Migrates north in autumn, returning in spring to breed.



BW

The chunky **Dollarbird** and the elusive **Bassian Thrush** have also been sighted in more wooded parts of the district.



CS

Laughing Kookaburra

Probably the most familiar Australian bush bird. Fairly common throughout treed parts of the district. Eats reptiles and rodents but mainly various invertebrates. Nests in tree hollows, so big old trees are vital to protect this national icon.

Sacred Kingfisher

Much smaller, and less common, than the kookaburra. However it can sometimes be seen or heard in the warmer months, particularly along well-vegetated creeklines and remnant patches of bush. Often solitary, it perches silently and still on a small exposed branch before diving onto prey.



BW

Another Kingfisher you may be lucky enough to see along creeksides is the small bright blue **Azure Kingfisher**.

Some woodland birds find it harder than others to adapt to the changes that have occurred to their habitat over the past 200 years. A few such birds are included in this group — birds that may be on the brink of local extinction, judging from trends elsewhere. They were all recorded for the King Parrot Valley in the past and are still occasionally seen. But they are known to be declining in range and numbers. These birds have been selected for special focus by the Landcare group. By providing the habitat requirements of these sensitive species, we can be fairly sure we are catering for the needs of a range of other birds.

Crested Shrike-tit

With its distinctive plumage, head crest and stout bill, this bird should be easy to recognise. But in fact it is usually heard before seen due to its noisy feeding habits and distinctive calls. It has a large foraging range and needs mature trees with some understorey. Feeding on galls as well as insects, it is one of a range of birds essential for maintaining the health of our trees. It can be found in the King Parrot Valley now but will greatly benefit from wide creekside vegetation corridors linked to patches of remnant bush.



SH



GC

Southern Whiteface

A small ground-feeding bird often seen in groups with Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Its stout finch-like bill allows it to eat seeds as well as insects. It usually nests in tree hollows or stumps. Prefers drier open woodland and would benefit from leaving fallen timber and leaf litter, as well as dead standing trees. Corridor plantings would allow connection between populations.

Hooded Robin

Slightly larger than the red robins, with the male having a handsome black hood extending down into its white breast. The female is less distinctive, with grey-brown replacing the male's black plumage. The decline of the Hooded Robin is of great concern. It is only rarely seen now in our Landcare district and clearly needs assistance through expansion and connection of suitable habitat patches. It is encouraging that elsewhere the Hooded Robin has been found to recolonise larger structurally diverse revegetation patches within a decade of being planted.



GC



BW

Jacky Winter

This grey-brown robin/flycatcher is a declining species in Victoria and an uncommon sight in our district. It favours drier remnant bush with adjacent open areas for foraging. It often hovers and takes insects in flight before returning to a low perch, twitching its white-edged tail from side to side. Being an insect-eater its presence is beneficial to the farm environment, and it should be encouraged with planting and linking of suitable habitat.

Brown Treecreeper

Unlike the White-throated Treecreeper, this bird spends much of its time feeding on the ground among bush debris searching for insects and ants. It usually nests in tree hollows, stumps or even fence-posts. Actions to help encourage this declining species would include leaving dead standing trees and fallen branches, and fencing off remnant patches of woodland habitat. Females disperse from breeding groups but find it hard to reach other patches of bush unless linked by corridors.



GC

These insect-eaters are characterised by their agility in flight as they hawk for prey, often with outspread tail.

Restless Flycatcher

Probably familiar to many people because of its unusual rolling chirring call which it emits while hovering, apparently to disturb insect prey on the ground. Fairly common around farms and creekside vegetation, but is nonetheless under pressure from degradation of habitat, and will benefit from fencing out remnant bush areas and not over-grazing paddocks.



GC



GC

Leaden Flycatcher

Seems to be a regular visitor to the area in small numbers. Most noticeable while breeding in spring/early summer when quite vocal. Migrates to north Queensland and even PNG in winter. Can be confused with the similar-looking **Satin Flycatcher** which prefers moister forested areas such as the upper King Parrot and Strath valleys.

Willie Wagtail

A very common farm bird. Catches insects in flight or on the ground, often using the backs of cattle as a perch. A feisty bird at breeding time. Its familiar sweet song is uttered even at night.



GC



SH

Grey Fantail

An active little bird that twists and turns with spread tail in flight to catch insects. Can be quite tame and inquisitive in gardens. Builds a small cup nest with a tail below like a baseless wine glass.

The **Rufous Fantail** is another bird that could be encountered in moister wooded gullies, especially above Flowerdale.

Unfortunately almost all the robins are declining across their ranges in south-east Australia. Strictly speaking they are flycatchers and are typically seen on the farm flying out from low perches such as stumps or fence-lines to pounce on insects.

Scarlet Robin

Mostly seen in autumn/winter in the more open farmland. Moves to higher timbered country to breed over the spring/summer period. Generally solitary or in pairs. The red wash on the duller female's breast distinguishes it from the female Flame Robin.



IM



BW

Flame Robin

Even more of an altitudinal migrant than the Scarlet Robin, it is only seen here in autumn/winter when small flocks appear on many farms in the area. Brown females and immature birds may predominate. When perched it flicks its wings and tail.

Eastern Yellow Robin

Favouring forests and scrubby woodland, gullies and creeklines, this colourful robin can be seen in more densely vegetated sections of our creeks and occasionally in gardens. Characteristically perches sideways on saplings or tree-trunks, often around clearings. Has a monotonous piping call.



GC

The small **Red-capped Robin** has been reported in the Red Box woodland along the Yea Spur, but would normally be found in drier areas to the north. The **Pink Robin** was recorded in the past at Flowerdale and is likely to still be found in the moist gullies of the upper King Parrot catchment. Refer to the Focal Species section (p.21) for the **Hooded Robin** and **Jacky Winter**.

Honeyeaters

This group is characterised by having a brush-tipped tongue for collecting nectar from flowers. They also feed on honeydew, manna, fruit and insects. They are important pollinators of many plants.

Red Wattlebird

This common large honeyeater is named for the hanging lobes of skin on its cheeks rather than any association with wattle trees. Aggressive and noisy, it often visits gardens. Nomadic, and can at times move in large flocks. The smaller and duller **Little Wattlebird** (which lacks wattles) has also been reported in the district.

The **Noisy Friarbird** is another somewhat similar-shaped large honeyeater that may occasionally appear here, especially in times of drought.



CC



CC

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

One of the more common honeyeaters around here. Many birds migrate north in winter, but some stay year round. Actively forages among eucalypt blossoms and also gleans insects from lower foliage. Has distinctive ringing "chickup-chickup-chickup" song.

White-eared Honeyeater

Another bird with a loud ringing call. Unlike most other honeyeaters, it is usually solitary or in pairs. Often seen probing under bark like a treecreeper for insects and spiders. Prefers forests and various woodland types with understorey.



CC

White-plumed Honeyeater

A widespread and adaptable bird, often one of the first to colonise revegetation areas. Mainly communal and territorial in its usual habitat of remnant forest and woodland, but in our open valley it is not unusual to see single birds, perhaps seeking out new territory.



GC

Brown-headed Honeyeater

A dull-plumaged but endearing small honeyeater, regularly seen through the district. Often in small flocks feeding busily and acrobatically in eucalypts with a distinctive chattering contact call. Roosts communally at night, huddling together on a branch.



HS

White-naped Honeyeater

Regularly seen and heard in the district, especially in the tall Manna Gums and Candlebarks along King Parrot Creek. Its red skin over the eye and its unusual "sherp-sherp" call aid in identification. Duller immature birds can be confused with the closely related Brown-headed Honeyeater.



BW

When fencing off areas to be managed as wildlife habitat avoid using barbed wire. Birds, possums and gliders can become entangled on the barbs.

New Holland Honeyeater

A familiar (and bossy) visitor or resident in many gardens, especially those with blossom trees and native shrubs like grevilleas and banksias. Mainly a nectar feeder, it benefits from revegetation plantings with a range of local trees and shrubs having different flowering times.



GC

Eastern Spinebill

Easily recognised by its long curved bill. Also has a long tongue for collecting nectar from within tubular flowers such as correas. Found in remnant patches of bush, vegetated gullies and creeklines as well as gardens.



GC

Crescent Honeyeater

A rather shy bird of moister forests and woodlands. Seen here occasionally in spring/summer along creekside vegetation and even nearby gardens. Disperses to coastal areas in autumn. Has distinctive high-pitched call. Benefits from wide creekside plantings with understorey.



CT

*Our valley appears to be free of the aggressive native honeyeater, the **Noisy Miner**, which can exclude many woodland birds. Dense and varied local understorey plantings help prevent this bird moving in and dominating revegetation areas.*

These familiar small sleek birds are mostly seen in flight in pursuit of insects or perched in groups on power lines, TV aerials, etc.

Welcome Swallow

The well-known swallow that likes to nest under eaves or in sheds. Has a deeply forked tail. Often seen over dams, swooping and wheeling gracefully after flying insects. May be seen here all year round.



GC



GC

Tree Martin

A common swallow-like bird of open eucalypt woodland and farm land. Distinguished from Welcome Swallow by shorter, relatively square tail and off-white rump. Roosts and nests communally, usually in a tree hollow. Migrates north in autumn. May be seen together with Fairy Martins and swallows.

Fairy Martin

Slightly smaller, and less common, than Tree Martin with a rust-red head and a whiter rump. Builds bottle-shaped mud nest in a colony in overhanging creek banks, gullies or under bridges and even under open shed roofs. Migratory—most returning to same site each year.



BW

The **Fork-tailed Swift** and **White-throated Needletail** are somewhat similar birds, but are unrelated to swallows. They are larger and faster and occasionally seen in flocks in summer, especially in thundery weather. The woodswallows are also similar but unrelated to this group. See **Dusky Woodswallow** under Some Other Woodland Birds on page 18.

Cuckoos

All our cuckoo species are brood parasites that lay their eggs in nests of other birds. They are migratory and seen here mostly in spring/early summer, when they call monotonously.

Pallid Cuckoo

Largish bird seen from September to January. Uses nests of up to 80 different birds, many much smaller than itself. Distinctive call is a series of rising and accelerating notes. Usually solitary, it likes to perch in standing dead trees and pounce on insect prey on the ground.



BW



GC

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Appears here earlier than other cuckoos, but its mournful trill not usually heard until spring. Often seen motionless on fence-line with upright stance, tail down. Drops to ground to collect insects, mainly hairy caterpillars.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

A sad oft-repeated descending whistle by the male announces this bird's arrival in spring. Uses the cuckoos' typical perch-and-pounce method of catching insect prey in paddocks and open woodland. Tends to lay eggs mostly in domed nests such as those of thornbills and fairy wrens.



GC



GC

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

Distinguished from Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo by its complete breast bars, its lack of a white eyebrow and its brighter upper plumage. Also has a rising and more rapidly repeated whistle. Likely to be seen in more densely vegetated areas and even gardens.

This group is characterised by large eyes and silent flight, adaptations ideal for catching prey at night. All have distinctive calls which are worth learning to aid identification.

Southern Boobook

A common relatively small brown owl, often called a "Mopoke" in imitation of its repeated far-carrying call. Feeds on flying moths and beetles as well as mice and small birds.



GC



GC

Australian Owlet-nightjar

Rarely seen, but quite a common small owl-like bird. Roosts by day in a tree hollow (importance of old trees with hollows!). Occupies a large territory where it hunts mainly for insects.

Tawny Frogmouth

A widespread night-active bird with an amazing capacity for camouflage. Its call is a persistent resonating "oom-oom-oom.....". Glides silently from a perch onto prey including large insects, spiders etc.



IM



IM



GC

Barn Owl

A larger pale owl of open woodland and farmlands. Occasionally picked up in car headlights as a ghostly flash across the road. Mice now constitute its main diet. Nomadic, and will congregate around mice plagues.

These birds are characterised by sharp hooked bills and taloned feet. They are powerful fliers and have extraordinary vision. Some species are notoriously difficult to identify especially when soaring high up, so this group is limited to those most commonly seen here and which may be encountered closer to the ground.

Wedge-tailed Eagle

The largest Australian raptor with a wing-span of well over 2m. Like other raptors, the female is larger than the male. Our open hilly terrain with remnant bush patches is ideal habitat, and soaring "wedgies" are a familiar sight in the district. Usually seizes prey on the ground—feeds on birds, rabbits, hares, sick lambs, and frequently carrion.



BW



GC



GC



BW

Brown Goshawk

A rather fierce looking hawk with long legs, strong clawed feet and a longish tail. Often solitary and secretive, it hunts in woodland by stealth, taking birds (even chooks!), reptiles, frogs and small mammals, including young rabbits.

Black-shouldered Kite

An elegant raptor of open woodland and grassland, well adapted to farmland with scattered trees. Usually seen perched conspicuously on a pole or dead tree branch, or hovering with legs dangling and tail down. Drops on prey (mostly small rodents) with wings raised.



GC



GC

Brown Falcon

A common raptor in the district, often perched on a fence-post or power pole. Noisy, with a loud cackling call. Slower than other falcons, it takes most prey on the ground from a perch or after gliding and hovering. Also runs around on the ground after grasshoppers. Like other falcons, it has long pointed wings.



BW



SH

Nankeen Kestrel

A relatively small and slight falcon, fairly common in farmland with scattered trees. Also found in a wide range of other habitats. Quite vocal, with a shrill chattering call. Hovers expertly and dives on grasshoppers, mice, skinks and small birds. Usually nests in a tree hollow.



GC



GC

Other Raptors that may occasionally be seen include:

- Whistling Kite, Little Eagle, Swamp Harrier, Collared Sparrowhawk,**
- Australian Hobby** (a small falcon) and **Peregrine Falcon.**

Raptors play an important role on farms by devouring carrion and helping control pest species of insects and mammals. Protecting large trees and remnant bush provides them with nest sites and perches.

Although the primary focus of this booklet is on woodland birds, many birds you see will be associated with bodies of water or poorly drained paddocks. A selection of the more common ones is profiled here.

Pacific Black Duck

The familiar and common dark duck found in many farm dams, especially those with floating or edge vegetation. Wary, and flies off strongly when disturbed, the female quacking loudly.



SH



BW

Australian Wood Duck

More a grazer than a water-feeder, this handsome duck is a common sight around dams and in lower paddocks, sometimes in large numbers. Has benefited from farm clearing and provision of dams. Nests in tree hollow, often far from water.

Australasian Grebe

The small "dabchick" found on many dams. Prefers to dive rather than fly off when disturbed. Builds a floating nest of water plants. Calls often, mostly with a shrill chatter.



GC

Teal

Not a common bird on dams but nonetheless both **Grey Teal** (top) and **Chestnut Teal** /? (bottom) are occasionally seen in the district in larger and better vegetated dams, the Grey being more nomadic. They feed on both plant and animal material. The female Chestnut is easily mistaken for the Grey.



GC



IM



BW

Australian Shelduck

Although a lowland bird, this large handsome duck is known to many as a "Mountain Duck". Pairs frequently seen grazing in low-lying paddocks. Nests in tree hollow or on ground (even in a rabbit burrow). Calls with a loud honk, the female higher pitched than the male.

Little Pied Cormorant

The most common cormorant species found in this area. Often seen perching on an exposed branch beside dams and billabongs or circling overhead. Feeds on smaller fish and crustaceans such as yabbies.

The **Little Black Cormorant** may also be seen occasionally.



IM

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Distinctive large white bird of swampy areas, dams, billabongs and occasionally drier pasture. Sweeps its wide bill from side to side when feeding on water insects, crustaceans and molluscs. Usually solitary.



BW



GC

White-faced Heron

A common sight in farmland and on roadsides. Regularly seen standing or stalking about in pastures and shallow water searching for a wide range of prey.

White-necked Heron

Less common than the White-faced Heron, this usually solitary large bird is still frequently seen in the district. Flies with slow wing-beats, its neck folded and white wing-markings appearing like headlights.



GC

Fencing off dams not only improves water quality but also creates a wetland habitat for wildlife with long grass and edge vegetation. Trees and shrubs can then be planted to enhance the area. For stock water either provide a limited access point or siphon to a trough.

Ibis

The **Australian White Ibis** (top) and **Straw-necked Ibis** (bottom) are widespread birds regularly seen in local paddocks and around dam margins. Often associate in mixed flocks although the Straw-necked Ibis ventures further from water into dry pasture. May travel in large flocks in V-formation. Feed on a wide range of water insects, frogs, snails, crickets, grasshoppers and pasture grubs, so are often referred to as “the farmer’s friend”.



GC



BW



IM

Masked Lapwing

A noisy plover seen around dams and lower paddocks. Aggressive when breeding and will dive at intruders with a raucous burst of its staccato call. Can also be heard at night. Has a bony spur on each wing.

There are many other birds associated with water or swampy habitat that may occasionally be seen locally. Sightings in recent years include **Dusky Moorhen, Hardhead, Purple Swamphen, Buff-banded Rail, Black-tailed Native-hen, Eurasian Coot, Latham’s Snipe** and **Clamorous Reed-Warbler**.

There are only two indigenous members of the pigeon and dove family regularly seen in our district. They have a distinctive silhouette of low-slung plump body and relatively small head.

Common Bronzewing

Ground-feeding bird that often prefers to walk through bush but can fly swiftly and low when disturbed. Wings clatter on take-off and whistle in flight. Food includes native seeds, particularly wattle seeds, and waste grain in farmland. Has a deep “oom” call monotonously repeated.



GC



IM

Crested Pigeon

Regularly seen around the district, especially around farms feeding out grain. Often perches on overhead wires. Bursts into flight from ground with whistling wing beats, followed by glides. Formerly restricted to inland areas, has greatly expanded range due to clearing and introduction of weeds and grain crops.

The small **Peaceful Dove** was recorded at Flowerdale prior to 1968 (see Appendix 1) but has declined over its range (possibly due to competition from the introduced Spotted Turtle-Dove) and would be an unlikely sighting now.

There are certain to be birds not included in this booklet that occasionally visit the area. The authors would welcome reports of any interesting or unusual sightings of birds especially any of the focal species on pages 20 and 21. Telephone 5780 1225

The following introduced species may be seen in the Landcare area:
House Sparrow, European Goldfinch, Common Blackbird, Common Starling, Common Myna, Spotted Turtle-dove and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). All, to varying extent, compete with native birds for food and nest sites and should be discouraged.

The Final Word

It is hoped that this booklet will foster interest in local birds, their place in the environment and the plight of many woodland species. Creation of bird habitat is very much a Landcare issue – the role birds play in sustainable farming systems by reducing insect numbers in trees, crops and pastures is well documented. Birds are also good indicators of the general health of the farm environment – if many birds are present, a range of other wildlife will also be present.

Active Landcare groups like ours, through planting, fencing and weed control efforts, as well as educational field days, can help create the biodiversity essential to maintaining a sustainable long-term rural landscape for both wildlife and humans.

Remember, it is not just one or two rarely seen birds that are under threat. Many of our familiar birds are among a range of species that are declining and just managing to hang on in the remnants of habitat available to them. It would be a tragedy to lose any of our rich heritage of birdlife.

So keep on planting and keep on protecting remnant native vegetation!!

Contacts and Further Information

Agencies/Organisations

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). For advice relating to public land and fauna and flora in general. Alexandra office: ph.(03) 5772 0200.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI). For advice relating to private land, environmental incentive grants and pest plants and animals. Broadford office: ph.(03) 5784 0600.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA). For advice on waterways and funding for waterway revegetation. Yea office: ph.(03) 5736 0100.

Birds Australia: ph.1300 730 075; web: www.birdsaustralia.com.au

BOCA: ph.1300 305 342; web: www.birdobservers.org.au

References and Further Reading

How to Plan Wildlife Landscapes – a guide for community organisations. S.J. Platt, 2002. Available on DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au].

A Wildlife Guide for Landholders in the foothills and upper regions of the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Available from CMA.

Birds on Farms – ecological management for agricultural sustainability. Geoff Barrett, 2000. Available from Birds Australia.

How Much Habitat is Enough – planning for wildlife conservation in rural landscapes. Radford, Bennett and MacRaid, 2004. Available from DSE.

Field Guide to Australian Birds. Morcombe

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia. Pizzey and Knight

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia. Simpson and Day

Field Guide to Australian Birds. Slater

Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds.

Appendix 1

Bird Species observed by John Hatchell-Brown Snr. at “The Willows”, Flowerdale 1937 - 1968.

Stubble Quail	Masked Owl	Varied Sittella
Black Swan	Southern Boobook	Crested Shrike-tit
Pacific Black Duck	Barn Owl	Olive Whistler
Australasian Grebe	Tawny Frogmouth	Golden Whistler
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian Owlet-nightjar	Rufous Whistler
Pied Cormorant	White-throated Needletail	Grey Shrike-thrush
Little Black Cormorant	Azure Kingfisher	Leaden Flycatcher
Great Cormorant	Laughing Kookaburra	Satin Flycatcher
White-faced Heron	Sacred Kingfisher	Restless Flycatcher
White-necked Heron	Rainbow Bee-eater	Maggie-lark
Nankeen Night Heron	Superb Lyrebird	Rufous Fantail
Australian White Ibis	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Fantail
Straw-necked Ibis	Brown Treecreeper	Willie Wagtail
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Black-shouldered Kite	Spotted Pardalote	Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Whistling Kite	Striated Pardalote	White-winged Triller
Brown Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Dusky Woodswallow
Grey Goshawk	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Collared Sparrowhawk	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Little Eagle	Striated Thornbill	Grey Currawong
Brown Falcon	Southern Whiteface	Australian Raven
Australian Hobby	Red Wattlebird	White-winged Chough
Nankeen Kestrel	Noisy Miner	Richard's Pipit
Buff-banded Rail	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	House Sparrow
Purple Swamphen	Singing Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Latham's Snipe	White-eared Honeyeater	Diamond Firetail
Painted Snipe	White-plumed Honeyeater	European Goldfinch
Masked Lapwing	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Silver Gull	White-naped Honeyeater	White-backed Swallow
Common Bronzewing	Crescent Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Peaceful Dove	New Holland Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	White-fronted Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye
Galah	White-fronted Chat	Song Thrush
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Jacky Winter	Bassian Thrush
Cockatiel	Scarlet Robin	Common Blackbird
Musk Lorikeet	Flame Robin	Common Starling
Australian King Parrot	Pink Robin	Common Myna
Crimson Rosella	Hooded Robin	
Eastern Rosella	Eastern Robin	
Pallid Cuckoo	White-browed Babbler	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Spotted Quail-thrush	

Total of 126 species.

Appendix 2

Bird Species recorded by Landcare Group Members during 2006.

Stubble Quail	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Raven
Australian Wood Duck	Spotted Pardalote	White-winged Chough
Pacific Black Duck	Striated Pardalote	House Sparrow
Chestnut Teal	White-browed Scrubwren	Red-browed Finch
Australasian Grebe	Weebill	European Goldfinch
Little Pied Cormorant	White-throated Gerygone	Mistletoebird
Little Black Cormorant	Brown Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
White-faced Heron	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Tree Martin
White-necked Heron	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Fairy Martin
Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Clamorous Reed-warbler
Straw-necked Ibis	Striated Thornbill	Rufous Songlark
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red Wattlebird	Silvereye
Black-shouldered Kite	Little Wattlebird	Common Blackbird
Whistling Kite	Noisy Friarbird	Common Starling
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Common Myna
Little Eagle	White-eared Honeyeater	
Brown Falcon	White-plumed Honeyeater	
Nankeen Kestrel	Brown-headed Honeyeater	
Buff-banded Rail	White-naped Honeyeater	
Masked Lapwing	Crescent Honeyeater	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	New Holland Honeyeater	
Common Bronze-wing	Eastern Spinebill	
Crested Pigeon	Scarlet Robin	
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Flame Robin	
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Eastern Yellow Robin	
Galah	Varied Sittella	
Long-billed Corella	Crested Shrike-tit	
Little Corella	Golden Whistler	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Rufous Whistler	
Musk Lorikeet	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Little Lorikeet	Leaden Flycatcher	
Australian King Parrot	Restless Flycatcher	
Crimson Rosella	Magpie-lark	
Eastern Rosella	Grey Fantail	
Red-rumped Parrot	Willie Wagtail	
Pallid Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Olive-backed Oriole	
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Dusky Woodswallow	
Southern Boobook	Grey Butcherbird	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Australian Magpie	
Laughing Kookaburra	Pied Currawong	
Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Currawong	
White-throated Treecreeper	Australian Raven	

Total of 101 species.

Thanks are due to those Landcare members who participated in the survey.



Index and Checklist

Blackbird,	Common	36	M
Boobook,	Southern	29	M
Bronze-Cuckoo,	Horsfield's	28	M
	Shining	28	M
Bronzewing,	Common	36	M
Butcherbird,	Grey	06	M
Chat,	White-fronted	12	M
Chough,	White-winged	07	M
Cockatoo,	Gang-gang	08	M
	Sulphur-crested	09	M
	Yellow-tailed Black	08	M
Coot,	Eurasian	35	M
Corella,	Little	09	M
	Long-billed	09	M
Cormorant,	Little Black	33	M
	Little Pied	33	M
Cuckoo,	Fan-tailed	28	M
	Pallid	28	M
Cuckoo-shrike,	Black-faced	07	M
Currawong,	Grey	05	M
	Pied	05	M
Dollarbird		19	M
Dove,	Peaceful	36	M
	Rock	36	M
Duck,	Australian Wood	32	M
	Pacific Black	32	M
Eagle,	Little	31	M
	Wedge-tailed	30	M
Fairy-wren,	Superb	17	M
Falcon,	Brown	31	M
	Peregrine	31	M
Fantail,	Grey	22	M
	Rufous	22	M
Finch,	Red-browed	17	M
Firetail,	Diamond	17	M
Flycatcher,	Leaden	22	M
	Restless	22	M
	Satin	22	M
Friarbird,	Noisy	24	M
Frogmouth,	Tawny	29	M
Galah		09	M
Gerygone,	White-throated	14	M
Goldfinch,	European	36	M
Goshawk,	Brown	30	M
Grebe,	Australasian	32	M
Hardhead		35	M
Harrier,	Swamp	31	M
Heron,	White-faced	34	M
	White-necked	34	M
Hobby,	Australian	31	M
Honeyeater,	Brown-headed	25	M
	Crescent	26	M
	New Holland	26	M
	White-eared	24	M
	White-naped	25	M
	White-plumed	25	M
	Yellow-faced	24	M
Ibis,	Australian White	35	M
	Straw-necked	35	M
Jacky Winter		21	M
Kestrel,	Nankeen	31	M
Kingfisher,	Azure	19	M
	Sacred	19	M
Kite,	Black-shouldered	30	M
	Whistling	31	M
Kookaburra,	Laughing	19	M
Lapwing,	Masked	35	M
Lorikeet,	Little	10	M
	Musk	10	M
	Rainbow	10	M
Magpie,	Australian	05	M
Magpie-lark		07	M
Martin,	Fairy	27	M
	Tree	27	M
Mistletoebird		15	M
Moorhen,	Dusky	35	M
Myna,	Common	36	M
Miner,	Noisy	26	M
Native-hen,	Black-tailed	35	M
Needletail,	White-throated	27	M

Oriole,	Olive-backed	18	M
Owl,	Barn	29	M
Owlet-nightjar,	Australian	29	M
Pardalote,	Spotted	15	M
	Striated	15	M
Parrot,	Australian King	08	M
	Red-rumped	10	M
Pigeon,	Crested	36	M
Pipit,	Australian	12	M
Quail,	Stubble	12	M
Rail,	Buff-banded	35	M
Raven,	Australian	06	M
	Little	06	M
Reed-Warbler,	Clamorous	35	M
Robin,	Eastern Yellow	23	M
	Flame	23	M
	Hooded	21	M
	Pink	23	M
	Red-capped	23	M
	Scarlet	23	M
Rosella,	Crimson	10	M
	Eastern	10	M
Scrubwren,	White-browed	17	M
Shelduck,	Australian	33	M
Shrike-thrush,	Grey	11	M
Shrike-tit,	Crested	20	M
Silvereye		14	M
Sittella,	Varied	14	M
Snipe,	Latham's	35	M
Songlark,	Rufous	19	M
Sparrow,	House	36	M
Sparrowhawk,	Collared	31	M
Spinebill,	Eastern	26	M
Spoonbill,	Yellow-billed	34	M
Starling,	Common	36	M
Swallow,	Welcome	27	M
Swamphen,	Purple	35	M
Swift,	Fork-tailed	27	M

Teal,	Chestnut	33	M
	Grey	33	M
Thornbill,	Brown	16	M
	Buff-rumped	16	M
	Striated	13	M
	Yellow	13	M
	Yellow-rumped	16	M
Thrush,	Bassian	19	M
Turtle-dove,	Spotted	36	M
Treecreeper,	Brown	21	M
	White-throated	18	M
Triller,	White-winged	07	M
Wagtail,	Willie	22	M
Wattlebird,	Little	24	M
	Red	24	M
Weebill		13	M
Whistler,	Golden	11	M
	Olive	11	M
	Rufous	11	M
Whiteface,	Southern	20	M
Woodswallow,	Dusky	18	M
	Masked	18	M
	White-browed	18	M

Page numbers in bold indicate birds that are covered by photos and notes.

Tick boxes are provided to record birds as you see them. Monthly checklists are also available through the Landcare Group.





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