The Port Phillip and Western Port region is Victoria’s most diverse and complex in regard to its location, geography and demography. It encompasses the densely populated urban Melbourne, sprawling outer suburbs, growth centres on the urban fringe and rich rural land and natural parklands. This region covers 1.3 million hectares, has over 900 wetlands, including three internationally significant Ramsar wetlands, and is home to more than 1860 species of native flora and 600 species of native vertebrate fauna.

This region is critically important to both native and migratory bird species, some of which travel thousands of kilometers to forage on Melbourne’s waters.

This booklet aims to help you identify the most common native and introduced bird species to Melbourne. Sadly, many of these beautiful species and their habitats are subject to increasing threats. The greatest threats include vegetation clearing (leading to the loss of habitat), competition with pest plants and animals, salinity and land use change.

We hope our booklet will inspire you to go and discover the diversity of birdlife that Melbourne has to offer, and join us in monitoring populations and promoting their conservation. If you would like to volunteer with us, visit our website for more information.

Contact Us
T (03) 9347 0757
E info@birdlife.org.au
W www.birdlife.org.au
Bird Identification

This booklet covers 116 bird species that occur regularly in Melbourne, Australia, based on Atlas survey data. For easier identification we have included ID tips for each species and maps of where you are most likely to encounter them within the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

Bird species are ordered taxonomically and split into groups of similar species to make navigating the pages a little faster. Groups are as follows (a detailed index is located at the back):

- **Waterbirds** 6-19
- **Shorebirds** 20-25
- **Seabirds** 26-27
- **Birds of prey** 28-30
- **Pigeons** 31
- **Parrots** 32-37
- **Cuckoos** 38
- **Pardalotes** 41
- **Thornbills** 42-43
- **Honeyeaters** 44-48
- **Songbirds** 50-51
- **Magpies etc.** 54-56
- **Wetland reed birds** 57-58
- **Introduced** 60-61
**Key to descriptions**

- **Crown**
- **Eyestripe**
- **Nape**
- **Upperparts**
- **Primaries**
- **Rump**
- **Undertail coverts**
- **Bill**
- **Forehead**
- **Eyebrow**
- **Chest/Breast**
- **Belly**
- **Flanks**

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**Size**

**Identification tips**

**Habitat description**

**bp** Breeding plumage

**Juv.** Juvenile

*Threatened species status from Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (as of February 2017)*
Dark blue outlined region indicates the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment area. Species distribution is shaded light blue.

The maps provided here are adapted from the ‘New Atlas of Australian Birds’ (Barrett et al., 2003), which is the result of over half a million hours of surveys by more than 7,000 BirdLife Australia volunteers. We would like to thank all our volunteers for this fantastic effort.

The monitoring of Australian birds through the Atlas project continues, and plays an important role in tracking the effects of environmental change on bird populations and habitats.

If you are interested in Atlassing, visit: birdlife.org.au/projects/atlas-and-birdata
**AUSTRALIAN PELICAN**  
*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

- 170cm
- Unmistakable. Fishes in groups
- Freshwater and coastal wetlands

**AUSTRALASIAN DARTER**  
*Anhinga novaehollandiae*

- Long kinked neck
- Long pointed bill
- 90cm
- Very low in water. Sometimes only head and neck visible
- Marine and freshwater
**LITTLE PIED CORMORANT**
*Microcarbo melanoleucos*

- White extends past eye to forehead
- Small yellow bill
- No black ‘trousers’
- 61cm
- Has spiky crest in breeding plumage
- Freshwater, farm dams, bays

**PIED CORMORANT**
*Phalacrocorax varius*

- Long, dark bill
- Orange/yellow between eye and bill, blue eye-ring
- Black ‘trousers’
- 73cm
- Travels in V formation in groups of thousands
- Marine and freshwater
**LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT**
*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

- Entirely black
- 61cm
- Often seen in big flocks
- Freshwater and coastal lagoons

**GREAT CORMORANT**
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

- Turquoise eye
- Yellow throat patch, white chin
- White ‘thigh’ stripe in breeding plumage only
- 82cm
- Usually found alone
- Marine and freshwater
**AUSTRALASIAN GREBE**
*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

- **24cm**
- **Sits high in the water**
- **Giggling call**
- **Freshwater and farm dams**

**HOARY-HEADED GREBE**
*Poliocephalus poliocephalus*

- **29cm**
- **Sits high in the water.**
  - Has a more upright posture than the Australasian Grebe
- **Freshwater**
Waterbirds

BLACK SWAN
*Cygnus atratus*

- 1.2m
- Unmistakable. Often in pairs
- Freshwater and coastal wetlands

AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK
*Tadorna tadornoides*

- White eye-ring on female
- 64cm
- White underwing visible in flight
- Freshwater and fallow fields, small tidal flats
PINK-EARED DUCK
*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

- Long, chunky bill
- Pink, rarely visible in field
- Zebra striping

**Size:** 42cm

- Also called Zebra Duck. Looks uniform grey at long range. Forward stretched swimming style when feeding
- Freshwater

AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELER
*Anas rhynchos*

- Large, dark bill
- Bright orange legs

**Size:** 50cm

- Male can look mottled in field. Forward stretched swimming style when feeding
- Freshwater
**PACIFIC BLACK DUCK**
*Anas superciliosa*

Distinct dark facial markings

- 53cm
- Also called Eyebrowed Duck
- Freshwater estuaries and bays

**HARDHEAD**
*Aythya australis*

Male has a white eye

- 52cm
- Diving duck able to feed in deep water
- Freshwater, rarely marine
**GREY TEAL**
*Anas gracilis*

- Paler cheeks, throat and flanks than female Chestnut Teal
- Whitish
- 43 cm
- Female and male identical. Difficult to distinguish from Chestnut Teal
- Freshwater but can be on sea. More common inland than Chestnut Teal

**CHESTNUT TEAL**
*Anas castanea*

- Less white
- 44 cm
- Calls also very similar to Grey Teal
- Freshwater, tidal flats. More common near coast than Grey Teal
**AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK**  
*Charadrius australis*

- Goose-like face
- 47cm
- Also called Maned Duck. Grazes on land. Breeds in tree hollows.
- Freshwater and farm dams, forests.

**BLUE-BILLED DUCK**  
*Oxyura australis*

- Male often carries tail
- Cap indistinct
- Heavy blue bill
- 40cm
- Dark duck, lying low in the water. Blue bill not always obvious. Diving duck
- Freshwater
MUSK DUCK  
*Biziura lobata*

- Large dewlap (smaller when not displaying)
- Distinct cap
- Stubby bill

**21cm**

*Large diving duck. Swims very low in the water. Female smaller than male*  
*Freshwater and sea*

PURPLE SWAMPHEN  
*Porphyrio porphyrio*

- Heavy red bill

**46cm**

*Rarely seen swimming, often on land. Large bird with upright posture*  
*Freshwater, marshlands, parks*
Waterbirds

**DUSKY MOORHEN**
*Gallinula tenebrosa*

- Red bill/face plate with yellow tip
- Immature birds are browner with a grey-green bill
- Freshwater
- 38cm

**EURASIAN COOT**
*Fulica atra*

- White bill and face plate
- Frequently swimming, diving.
  Sometimes feeding on land
- Freshwater, pastures and parks
- 37cm
**WHITE-FACED HERON**  
*Egretta novaehollandiae*

- White face and upper neck
- 68cm
- Plumes on nape and neck during breeding season
- Freshwater and coastal wetlands, pastures and drains

**EASTERN GREAT EGRET**  
*Ardea modesta*

- Yellow bill extends past the eye
- Distinct kink in neck
- Longer neck in ratio to the body
- 88cm
- Measured hunting style
- Freshwater and marine
AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS
*Threskiornis molucca*

- 70cm
- Seen in big flocks
- Freshwater, marine and pastures, fields. Scavanges in parks and tips

STRAW-NECKED IBIS
*Threskiornis spinicollis*

- 67cm
- Seen in big flocks
- Freshwater, marine and pastures, fields, dry grasslands
ROYAL SPOONBILL  
*Platalea regia*

- **Black bill**
- **Distinct side-to-side movement when feeding**
- **77cm**
- **Freshwater and coastal lagoons**

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL  
*Platalea flavipes*

- **Yellow bill**
- **Distinct side-to-side movement when feeding**
- **83cm**
- **Freshwater and coastal lagoons**
**Shorebirds**

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT**
*Limosa lapponica*

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (*L. l. menzbieri*)
VULNERABLE (*L. l. baueri*)

- *bp*
- Slightly upturned bill
- Streaked upperparts

- 42cm
- Obvious striped tail in flight
- Coastal mudflats
  Sandy intertidal zones

**EASTERN CURLEW**
*Numenius madagascariensis*

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

- Streaked head without obvious dark cap and eye stripe
- Down-curved bill, almost as long as body

- 63cm
- Brown rump in flight. Call a mournful ‘Cuuuurrlew’
- Coastal mudflats
  Sandy intertidal zones
**RED-NECKED STINT**
*Calidris ruficollis*

- Black line on white rump, typical for most stints and sandpipers

- 21cm
- Often in large flocks.
- Common and widespread
- Coastal intertidal zones
- Inland saline and freshwater marshes

**MASKED LAPWING**
*Vanellus miles*

- Yellow wattles
- Wing spurs

- 34cm
- Large, noisy and often aggressive plover
- Short grass habitats, wetland edges, and modified urban environments
There are five species of Australian shorebirds which nest only or usually on the beach including the Hooded Plover, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Beach Stone-curlew, and Red-capped Plover. Their nest can be anywhere above the high-tide mark, on the beach or in the dunes.

Australia’s beach-nesting birds are threatened by disturbance from humans, their dogs and cars. Disturbance is greatest in spring and summer, the peak period for beach holidays and exactly when beach-nesters usually lay their eggs.

To protect beach-nesting birds our community project works to:

• Educate the public to change their behaviour and attitudes towards beaches and birds
• Establish and support community monitoring of beach-nesting birds
• Involve land managers in beach-nesting bird protection by training them in new conservation techniques discovered by our research team

If you would like to get involved in monitoring your local beach-nesting birds, visit www.birdlife.org.au/beach
HOODED PLOVER
*Thinornis cucullatus*

**VULNERABLE**

- **Red bill**
- **White collar distinctive in all plumages**
- **Smooth grey upperparts**
- **Short pink legs**

- **21cm**
- **Usually in pairs or small flocks**
- **Sandy ocean beaches**

RED-CAPPED PLOVER
*Charadrius ruficapillus*

- **Rufous cap**

- **15cm**
- **Bobs head nervously, darting and stopping abruptly**
- **Sandy beaches, bare margins of inland and coastal wetlands**
The Shorebirds 2020 program coordinates the national shorebird population monitoring in Australia. Volunteers from the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) and BirdLife Australia have carried out monitoring of key shorebird areas in Australia since 1981. Shorebird count data aids conservation by highlighting population trends and identifying threats to shorebirds.

Sadly, these beautiful birds and their coastal habitats are under pressure in Australia and in their staging and breeding grounds in East Asia and the Arctic. Using the shorebird count data we are able to declare Key Biodiversity Areas and influence land management and on-ground conservation management actions, to reduce disturbances to foraging or nesting shorebirds.

We need your help to conduct annual counts at key shorebird areas. We also work to discover and mitigate the factors behind local and national population declines.


BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL
Elseynornis melanops

Brown crown
Chestnut line
Black breast-band

17cm
Often in pairs or family groups
Dry margins of freshwater wetlands. Farm dams
**BLACK-WINGED STILT**  
*Himantopus himantopus*

- **37cm**
- **All-black wings in flight**
- **Saline and freshwater wetlands. Coastal intertidal zones**

**RED-NECKED AVOCET**  
*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

- **44cm**
- **Saline lakes and saltpans. Freshwater wetlands. Coastal intertidal zones**
- **Feeds in shallow water, rapidly sweeping bill from side to side**
SILVER GULL
*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

- Red bill
- 40cm

![Image of Silver Gull]

*Please do not feed. An over-population of Silver Gulls threatens beach-nesting birds*

- Freshwater and coastal wetlands, beaches, parks, pastures and tips

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PACIFIC GULL
*Larus pacificus*

- Black band on tail visible in flight
- Massive yellow bill with red tip
- 63cm

![Image of Pacific Gull]

*Juv. have chocolate brown plumage and large bill*

- Coastal shorelines

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Seabirds
WHISKERED TERN
*Chlidonias hybrida*

- **Sturdy, dark red bill**
- **Dark grey**
- **Streaky cap**

**36cm**

- Usually in flocks patrolling back and forth over wetlands
- Freshwater, marshes, estuaries

CRESTED TERN
*Thalasseus bergii*

- **Crest**
- **Banana yellow bill**
- **Dark grey**

**46cm**

- May be in mixed flocks with other terns and gulls
- Estuaries and marine
Woodland, grassland, parkland

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE
*Elanus axillaris*

- Black eyebrow
- Black shoulder

- 35cm

Can be seen hovering over tall grasses

Woodland, grassland, parkland

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WHISTLING KITE
*Haliastur sphenurus*

- Dark wings

- Tail is longer than wings

- 60cm

Distinctive call

Woodland, plains, streams, coastal areas
**BROWN GOSHAWK**  
*Accipiter fasciatus*

- **Juv.**
- **♂**
- **♀**
- Long, bare yellow legs
- Long, rounded tail

- **55cm**
- Confused with Collared Sparrowhawk, differ in size, eyebrow and tail
- Woodland

**SWAMP HARRIER**  
*Circus approximans*

- Pale-edged facial disk

- **60cm**
- White bar on rump obvious in flight
- Wetlands, crops, and grasslands
WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE
_Aquila audax_

- Birds become darker with age
- Fully feathered legs

- Tail diamond-shaped in flight.
- Wingspan of 2.3m. Carrion-eater
- Diverse habitat except closed forest

BROWN FALCON
_Falco berigora_

- Dark tear marks conspicuous of all colour morphs

- 50cm
- Also seen in rufous and light colour morphs
- Woodland
COMMON BRONZE WING
Phaps chalcoptera

Buff forehead
Wings iridescent in sunlight

36cm
Feeds on ground. Mournful, slow ‘who’ call
Woodland, farmland

CRESTED PIGEON
Ocyphaps lophotes

35cm
‘Whistling’ wing beats in flight. Tips tail upward on landing
Lightly wooded areas near water, farms, range expanding in SE Australia
Parrots

YELLOW-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO
Calyptorhynchus funereus

- Red eye-ring
- Yellow tail panels
- Grey eye-ring

65cm

Distinctive, wailing calls, often in small flocks

Diverse wooded habitats, coastal, inland and alpine

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SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO
Cacatua galerita

- Large yellow crest

50cm

Loud, raucous screeches

Rainforest, eucalypt woodland, parkland, farmland
LONG-BILLED CORELLA  
*Cacatua tenuirostris*

- **Orange 'mask'**
- **Very long upper bill**
- **41cm**
- **Usually in small to large flocks**
- **Woodland, open forest, farmland**

LITTLE CORELLA  
*Cacatua sanguinea*

- **Short bill**
- **White throat**
- **Juv.**
- **39cm**
- **Very noisy in large flocks**
- **Woodland, urban areas, mulga, mallee**
Parrots

RAINFOREST LORIKEET
*Trichoglossus haematodus*
- 31cm
- Feeds on fruit, nectar, blossoms, seeds
- Diverse habitat types, rainforest, woodland, farmland, mangroves

MUSK LORIKEET
*Glossopsitta concinna*
- 23cm
- Larger than Little Lorikeet.
- Nomadic, in search for nectar
- Diverse, where flowering is heavy
CRIMSON ROSELLA  
*Platycercus elegans*

- Deep crimson
- Patchy crimson and green
- Different colour morphs include yellow and orange
- Wet forest, mallee, woodland

37 cm

EASTERN ROSELLA  
*Platycercus eximius*

- White cheeks
- Scalloped plumage on back

33 cm

- Common species of farmland and grassy woodlands
- Diverse wooded habitat types
**GALAH**

*Eolophus roseicapillus*

- Red eye-ring
- Deep pink body

- 38cm
- Feeds on ground or low shrubs in small flocks
- Diverse open country, woodland, coastal areas

**RED-RUMPED PARROT**

*Psephotus haematonotus*

- Male with red rump
- Vibrant aqua green
- Olive green

- 30cm
- Usually in pairs or small flocks, often feeding on ground
- Near water sources
**ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT**  
*Neophema chrysogaster*  
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

- **Blue band**
- **Dark blue leading edge of wing**
- **Orange patch not always visible**
- **Green plumage, the brightest of coastal Neophemas**

- **22cm**
- **Migratory, mainland April - Sept, SW Tas Oct - Mar (for breeding)**
- **Saltmarsh, heath**

**IDENTIFYING THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT**

The genus *Neophema* consists of six small, predominantly green/yellow, ground-feeding Parrots found in southern Australia. Mixed flocks consisting of Orange-bellied, Blue-winged, Rock and Elegant parrots have been recorded, therefore careful observation is essential.

**Plumage**

Key plumage identification tips as above.

**Call**

Alarm call is diagnostically harsh and buzzing, compared with the twittering alarm calls of Blue-winged and Rock Parrots and the slightly harsh zitting of Elegant Parrot.

**Habitat use**

Orange-bellied Parrots are primarily coastal dwelling when on the mainland, preferring saltmarsh areas, often narrow spits and small islands.

If you see an Orange-bellied Parrot, please report sightings immediately to chris.purnell@birdlife.org.au.
Woodland birds

HORSFIELD’S BRONZE-CUCKOO
Chalcites basalis

- White eyebrow
- Dark streak through eye
- Incomplete barring
- Rufous

Juv.

16cm
- Piercing, descending call.
- Confused with Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
- Diverse habitat types except wet forest

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO
Cacomantis flabelliformis

- Grey upperparts
- Buff-cinnamon underparts
- Juv.

28cm
- Distinctive musical, trill call
- Diverse wooded habitat types
**Woodland birds**

**TAWNY FROGMOUTH**  
*Podargus strigoides*

- Camouflages on an exposed limb. Same family as Nightjars, not owls
- 35-50cm
- Open woodland, eucalypt forest

**LAUGHING KOOKABURRA**  
*Dacelo novaeguineae*

- Pale underside of bill
- 47cm
- Merry chuckling call, rising to raucous laughter
- Woodland, open forest, farmland, parkland
Woodland birds

**WHITE-THROATED TRECTREECREEPER**
*Cormobates leucophaea*

- White throat
- Female with orange spot

- 16.5cm
- Spirals trunks upwards to feed, rarely on ground
- Woodland, rainforest and eucalypt forest

**SUPERB FAIRY-WREN**
*Malurus cyaneus*

- Appears as black in shadow
- Rufous eye-ring

- 14cm
- Young males have similar plumage to females
- Diverse wooded habitat types
**SPOTTED PARDALOTE**  
*Pardalotus punctatus*

- Buff spotted head
- Yellow throat

- 10 cm
- Nests in a burrow in side of river bank, stump or pile of earth
- Woodland, eucalypt forest

**STRIATED PARDALOTE**  
*Pardalotus striatus*

- White streaks
- Red spot and white wing stripe (race *striatus*)

- 11.5 cm
- May build nest in tree hollow or burrow into earth bank
- Diverse wooded habitat types
Woodland birds

WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN
*Sericornis frontalis*

- Alert with quick movements and scolding alarm calls
- Rainforest, woodland with dense understorey

STRIATED THORNBILL
*Acanthiza lineata*

- Prefers feeding in Eucalypt canopy
- Diverse wooded habitat types
YELOW-RUMPED THORNBILL
*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

- White spots on forehead
- White tips
- Bright yellow rump
- 12cm
- Forages on ground in small groups
- Grassy woodlands, farms and scrublands

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BROWN THORNBILL
*Acanthiza pusilla*

- Rufous forehead
- Dark streaks
- Dull cinnamon rump
- 10cm
- Forages in dense undergrowth, rarely in canopy
- Diverse habitat types
Woodland birds

**LITTLE WATTLEBIRD**
*Anthochaera chrysoptera*
- **White tips**
- **35cm**
- **Varied calls from musical to harsh**
- **Forest, woodland, parkland**

**RED WATTLEBIRD**
*Anthochaera carunculata*
- **Cheek patch silvery white**
- **Pale yellow underbelly**
- **36cm**
- **Large and aggressive**
- **Woodland, eucalypt forest, gardens**
Woodland birds

**BELL MINER**
*Manorina melanophrys*
- Distinctive bell-like call
- 20cm
- Forests, urban parks

**NOISY MINER**
*Manorina melanocephala*
- Yellow bare skin
- 28cm
- Native, very aggressive towards other birds, often in large flocks. Often confused with Common Myna (pg. 61)
- Urban, woodlands
Diverse habitat types

**YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER**  
*Lichenostomus chrysops*

- Pale yellow line across face
- Yellow margin to flight feathers
- 17.5cm
- Partially migratory, spending autumn and winter in northern states of Australia
- Diverse habitat types

**WOODLAND BIRDS**

**WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER**  
*Lichenostomus leucotis*

- Grey crown
- White ear
- Olive-green upperparts and tail
- 21.5cm
- Forages on bark for insects, similar to treecreepers
- Dry forests and woodlands

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WOODLAND BIRDS

WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER
*Lichenostomus penicillatus*

- Alert, noisy honeyeater in loose flocks
- Woodland, mallee and inland rivers

**Measurements:**
- **18 cm**

**Features:**
- White plume
- Wings and tail with yellow edges

WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER
*Melithreptus lunatus*

- Migratory with other honeyeaters, follows blossom
- Woodland and open forest

**Measurements:**
- **15.5 cm**

**Features:**
- White nape does not reach eye
- Red eye crescent

**Juvenile (Juv.):**
Woodland birds

NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER  
*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

- White eye
- Yellow wing panel
- Streaked underparts

18 cm
- Competes for insects and nectar
- Woodland, forest, urban

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EASTERN SPINEBILL  
*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

- Long downcurved bill

16 cm
- Noisy wing beats in flight.
- Hovers occasionally
- Woodland, forest and heath
**WHITE-FRONTED CHAT**  
*Epithianura albifrons*

- White face mask
- 13cm
- Forages on ground in small to large flocks for insects. Bouncy undulating flight
- Salt marshes, estuaries, low heath

**EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN**  
*Eopsaltria australis*

- Juvenile: Bright yellow underparts and rump
- 15cm
- In pairs or small family groups. Occasionally flicks tail and wings
- Woodland, wet open forest and coastal heath
Woodland birds

**GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH**
*Colluricincla harmonica*

- **Male conspicuous with loud call in spring**

- **24 cm**
- **Extremely varied and loud calls**
- **Diverse wooded habitat types**

- **Juv.**
  - Buff-brown back
  - White lores

**GOLDEN WHISTLER**
*Pachycephala pectoralis*

- **Male conspicuous with loud call in spring**

- **17 cm**
- **Diverse wooded habitat types**

- **Golden yellow**
- **Grey-brown, sometimes washed olive**
- **Yellow wash to vent**
Woodland birds

**RUFOUS WHISTLER**
*Pachycephala rufiventris*

- Sff chest and abdomen
- Light brown-grey body
- Streaks on throat

- 18cm
- Often seen in pairs or alone, loud and distinctive call
- Woodland, mallee and open forest

**GREY FANTAIL**
*Rhipidura albiscapa*

- Widely fanned grey and white tail
- Drooped wings
- Rich cream underparts

- 17cm
- Rarely sitting still. Swings tail and flutters in undergrowth for invertebrates
- Diverse habitat types
WILLIE WAGTAIL
*Rhipidura leucophrys*

- White eyebrow
- Brown-black wings

- **22cm**
- Waves tail constantly, flicks wings whilst foraging to disturb insects
- Open country, farms, urban

MAGPIE-LARK
*Grallina cyanoleuca*

- White eyebrow
- Brown-black wings

- **30cm**
- Creates mud bowl nests usually near water. Alternate name ‘Peewee’
- Habitats diverse
Woodland birds

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
Coracina novaehollandiae

- Black face and throat
- Wings: 33cm
- Shuffles wings upon landing at perch
- Diverse habitat types

DUSKY WOODSWALLOW
Artamus cyanopterus

- Dark lores
- Brown head and body
- White streak on wing
- Tail wagging behaviour when perched
- Woodland and open forest

Juv.
GREY BUTCHERBIRD
Cracticus torquatus

Overall brown/fawn

Hooked beak tipped black

White tip

30cm
Varied, musical call
Woodland, urban, rainforest margins

AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE
Cracticus tibicen

Red-maroon eye

Grey back

44cm
Lives in family groups. Loud carolling call. Forages on ground
Woodland, open country, coastal, urban
PIED CURRAWONG
Strepera graculina

- Bright yellow eye
- Black plumage

- 50cm
- Conspicuous and noisy
- Diverse habitat types, rainforest, gardens, woodland, coastal, farmland

GREY CURRAWONG
Strepera versicolor

- Very straight, pointed bill
- Black around eye

- 50cm
- Plumage varies across range, however all have similar ‘kling-kling’ call
- Woodland, forest, coastal, heath, mallee
**LITTLE RAVEN**  
*Corvus mellori*

- Sheen to plumage
- Throat hackles absent or very small (compared to Australian Raven)

50cm

Most common raven to Melbourne. Slightly smaller than Australian Raven

Urban areas, woodland, open plains

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**WELCOME SWALLOW**  
*Hirundo neoxena*

- Chestnut face and throat
- Pale grey

15cm

- Builds mud nests under eaves of buildings, bridges etc.
- Woodland, grassland, wetlands, farms
GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA
*Cisticola exilis*

Crested when calling

Streaked crown

- Male similar plumage to female during non-breeding. Male calls loudly from tall grass perch
- Wetlands

11cm

AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER
*Acrocephalus australis*

Whitish underparts with buff tint

- Usually hidden within reeds, with a strong loud call
- Reed beds of wetlands

17cm
**Woodland birds**

**LITTLE GRASSBIRD**  
*Megalurus gramineus*

- Long eyebrow
- Pointed tail
- **15cm**
- Usually heard and not seen, ‘whp-whee-whee’ call
- Dense vegetation of wetlands

---

**SILVEREYE**  
*Zosterops lateralis*

- White eye-ring
- Sharp pointed bill
- **12cm**
- Eight races across Australia, plumage will differ on location
- Diverse habitat types
Woodland birds

MISTLETOEBIRD
*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

- Glossy blue-black upperparts
- Red throat and breast
- Black central line

Insets:
- 11cm
- Digests fruit from mistletoe species, but not the seed
- Variety of habitats. Dependent on mistletoe

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RED-BROWED FINCH
*Neochmia temporalis*

- Red eyebrow
- Red rump

Insets:
- 12cm
- Forages in flocks usually on ground
- Heath, mangroves, forests, coastal areas
**AUSTRALASIAN PIPIT**
*Anthus novaeseelandiae*

- White narrow stripe
- No crest
- Long, slender bill
- Long, pink legs

**INTRODUCED BIRDS**

**Eurasian Skylark**
*Alauda arvensis*

- 18 cm

**Rock Dove**
*Columba livia*

- 31 cm

**Spotted Dove**
*Streptopelia chinensis*

- 30 cm

Open and modified habitats including grasslands, low shrublands and farmland.
Pumps tail up and down when standing. Similar to Skylark and Bushlark.
Common Blackbird
*Turdus merula*

Common Starling
*Sturnus vulgaris*

Common Myna
*Sturnus tristis*

House Sparrow
*Passer domesticus*

European Goldfinch
*Carduelis carduelis*

Common Greenfinch
*Chloris chloris*
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This booklet was compiled by BirdLife Australia’s Nick Bradsworth with support from Dan Weller and Caroline Wilson for the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA).

One of the roles of the PPWCMA is to coordinate regional-scale environmental projects that actively demonstrate the benefits of strategic partnerships and collaboration. Through our various projects, we bring together federal, state and local government agencies, Indigenous groups, not-for-profit organisations and community groups to implement projects that help protect and improve the ecological values of our region.

This booklet has been produced through the Ramsar Protection Program and Living Links Program, with funding from Victorian Government and the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering visit birdlife.org.au or call 1300 730 075.

The illustrations in this booklet are from the Handbook of Australian, New Zealand, and Antarctic Birds.

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First published 2017

ISBN: 978-0-9873140-6-2

Back image: Crimson Rosella - Nick Bradsworth
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