

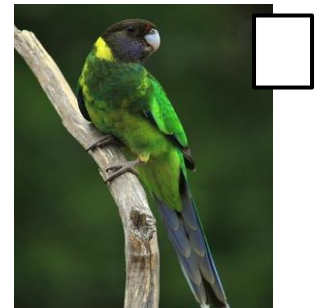
## Bird Spotto

('bush' birds)

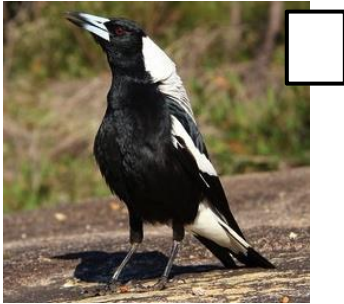
How many have you seen?



**Red-capped parrot**  
*Purpureicephalus spurius*



**Australian Ringneck**  
*Barnardius zonarius*



**Australian Magpie**  
*Gymnorhina tibicen*



**Golden Whistler**  
*Pachycephala pectoralis*



**New Holland Honeyeater**  
*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*



**Common Bronzewing**  
*Phaps chalcoptera*



**Grey Fantail**  
*Rhipidura fuliginosa*



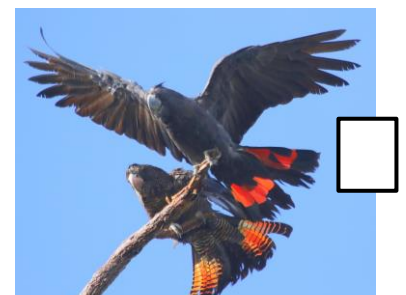
**Splendid Fairy-wren**  
*Malurus splendens*



**Western Spinebill**  
*Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*



**Australian Raven**  
*Corvus coronoides*



**Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**  
*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*

## Background Information

Birds are the most conspicuous group of animals with which we share our environment, so watching them and learning to identify different species adds huge value to any outdoor activity. The Shire of Mundaring is part of south-western Australia's internationally recognised 'Biodiversity Hotspot', a place that supports a vast range of fauna (nearly 400 bird species, half of Australia's total list). All birds are scientifically classified as either Passerines (perching or 'song' birds) and Non-passerines (e.g. waterbirds, raptors, parrots, cockatoos, pigeons), but for ease of understanding, this 'spotto' sheet has divided a handful of Mundaring species based on two broad habitat categories: **'bush' birds** that occur mostly in forests, woodlands and gardens; and **waterbirds**, most of which are associated with either permanent or ephemeral wetlands. A few of these 'waterbird' species also occur in bushland habitats but are more likely encountered near water.



**Scarlet Robin**  
*Petroica boodang*



**Western Thornbill**  
*Acanthiza inornata*



**Baudin's Cockatoo**  
*Zanda baudinii*



**Spotted Pardalote**  
*Pardalotus punctatus*



**Weebill**  
*Smicrornis brevirostris*



**Striated Pardalote**  
*Pardalotus striatus*



**Silvereye**  
*Zosterops lateralis*



**Brown Honeyeater**  
*Lichmera indistincta*



**Inland Thornbill**  
*Acanthiza apicalis*



**Carnaby's Cockatoo**  
*Zanda latirostris*



**Boobook Owl**  
*Ninox boobook*



**Tawny Frogmouth**  
*Podargus strigoides*

## Watching birds

Most birds living in forest, woodland and shrubland habitats are shy and wary of predators, making it difficult to glimpse them in detail. However, a pair of binoculars will enhance your experience enormously! To maximise your chance of seeing a variety of birds, wear 'neutral' colours, stick to designated trails, walk quietly and spend time sitting and observing bushland areas. Most 'bush' birds become active at dusk and spend time perching, calling, foraging and flying between feeding areas in the first 1–2 hours of daylight. Being out during this time, or in the last few hours before sunset, will increase the chance you will be able to observe natural behaviour. Refrain from using call playback (which is illegal in many areas) because it can cause severe stress to many species and interrupt social organisation. Instead, why not start your own call library and use the wealth of online information to learn bird calls yourself!?

Visit [www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au) to find out more about wildlife in the Shire of Mundaring

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## Bird Spotto

(water birds)

How many have you seen?



**Musk Duck**  
*Biziura lobata*



**Purple Swamphen**  
*Porphyrio melanotus*



**Pacific Black Duck**  
*Anas superciliosa*



**Black Swan**  
*Cygnus atratus*



**Australian Wood Duck**  
*Chenonetta jubata*



**Eurasian Coot**  
*Fulica atra*



**Australasian Darter**  
*Anhinga novaehollandiae*



**Dusky Moorhen**  
*Gallinula tenebrosa*



**Black-fronted Dotterel**  
*Charadrius melanops*



**White-faced Heron**  
*Egretta novaehollandiae*



**Australian Reed-warbler**  
*Acrocephalus australis*

## Water-dwellers

In contrast to bushland species, which are often smaller and shyer, water-dwelling birds are usually larger, noisy and in some cases very accustomed to humans. This means such birds are normally easy to see and observe, especially at places like Lake Leschenaultia, Susannah Lakes and Mundaring Weir. At a few places in the Shire of Mundaring, wetland birds may even be a bit too bold and steal from your picnic! Despite this, human foods are not healthy for wildlife so try to keep them covered or contained. Most wetland birds increase in numbers from June–Aug. when rains fill creeks, billabongs and lakes, increasing food and breeding opportunities. As water temperatures increase in Sept–Nov., you might observe families of ducks (with ducklings), and resident species such as swamphens, moorehens, and coots become more active. Wading birds like herons and spoonbills are more likely encountered in drier months when mudflats are exposed. All these species can easily be watched from the shore with binoculars as they up-end, swim, dive and make short flights across the surface.

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**Sacred Kingfisher**  
*Todiramphus sanctus*



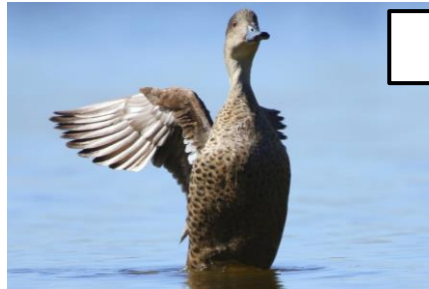
**Australasian Grebe**  
*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*



**Australian Shelduck**  
*Tadorna tadornoides*



**Straw-necked Ibis**  
*Threskiornis spinicollis*



**Grey Teal**  
*Anas gracilis*



**Little Pied Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*



**\*Laughing Kookaburra**  
*Dacelo novaeguineae*



**Tree Martin**  
*Petrochelidon nigricans*



**Nankeen Night Heron**  
*Nycticorax caledonicus*



**Yellow-billed Spoonbill**  
*Platalea flavipes*



**Little Black Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*



**Australian White Ibis**  
*Threskiornis molucca*

## Birds in your backyard

By far one of the most enjoyable ways to experience birds, and not only recognise species but get to know certain individuals, is to create bird-friendly habitat in your garden. 'Old-fashioned' or European methods of attracting birds, such as bird feeders, have in Australia now given way to more successful practices, such as installing bird-baths and planting a variety of local, native shrubs. Inspiration for your garden can easily come from natural areas and local nurseries supply a variety of seedlings or tube-stock to get started. The website ReWild Perth ([www.rewildperth.org.au](http://www.rewildperth.org.au)) has a wealth of information on this topic. The best thing about 'bird-scaping' your garden is that you will attract many other creatures – insects, spiders, reptiles, frogs and maybe even mammals – in the process!

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