

Birds of Western Sydney Photo Guide Media Release - 2nd June 2011



What's that up in the sky, is it a bird? – Yes it is, which one?

Can't tell a Wagtail from a Warbler? Do you know the difference between a Myna and a Miner? Have you ever seen a Red-rumped Parrot or wondered what a Crested Shrike-tit looks like? Would you like to know more about the birds in your local area and be able to identify them?

A new brochure produced by Mark Fuller of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club might help. It features photos of over 70 of the commonest birds found in the area, along with some fascinating facts. Did you know that Western Sydney has over a quarter of all Australia's bird species? mainly due to the scrappy bush found here, which is actually endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland.

The variety and some of the names of Australian birds can be overwhelming for a beginner. The brochure lists the most common species likely to be encountered. 'The idea came from Martin Potter of the Illawarra Birders who produced a similar guide, I love the idea of ticking the boxes and it's perfect if someone asks about a bird they've seen – they can usually find it in the brochure'.

The brochure was produced with sponsorship from the Western Sydney Parklands and Blacktown and Liverpool Councils. As the unique habitat of this area meets increased urban development and population growth, the guide is aimed at raising people's awareness of the wonderful wildlife that still exists right on their doorstep.

It is hoped that the guide will be accepted in schools and could form the basis of local monitoring projects. Sunday 5th June is world Environment Day and the brochure will be able to be viewed online from this date. Printed copies will be made available with the next few weeks and there will be upcoming events to help people see the birds that are featured in this brochure.