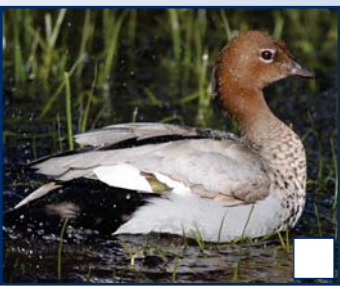




Pacific Black Duck

Very Common, not black but has a dark overall appearance. Wide variety of freshwater habitats, feeds by dabbling.

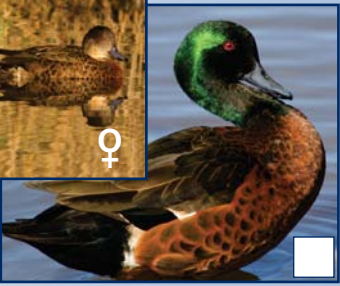
54cm



Australian Wood Duck

Common species that nests in high tree hollows. Agricultural and grassland habitats, feeds by grazing.

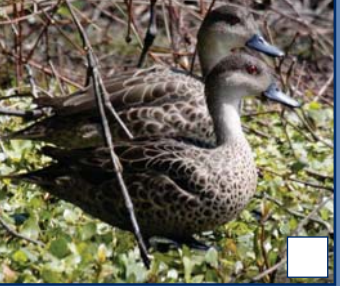
46cm



Chestnut Teal

Common. Brightly-coloured males differ from females (inset). Freshwater and marine shallows, feeds by dabbling and upending.

43cm



Grey Teal

Common. Sexes alike. Paler 'grey' colour (esp. throat). Freshwater and marine shallows, feeds by dabbling and upending.

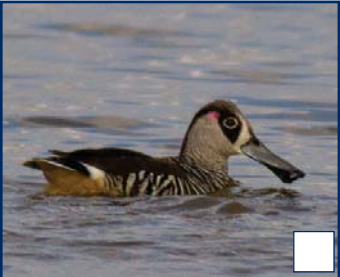
43cm



Hardhead

A widespread, nomadic duck. Males have a white-eye, females have brown. Freshwater, feeds by diving, dabbling and surface feeding.

54cm



Pink-eared Duck

Distinctive duck can occur in large flocks. Freshwater lakes. Large bill used for surface feeding.

38cm



Australasian Shoveler

Uncommon, males brighter than females. Freshwater and marine habitats, feeds by filtering and surface feeding.

43cm



Musk Duck

Rare. A very unusual duck, sits low in water, male has large pouch, note spikey tail. Large bodies of fresh water, feeds by diving.

43cm



Wandering Whistling Duck

Occasional visitor, a nomadic species. Freshwater. Grazes on aquatic vegetation and grasses.

60cm



Plumed Whistling Duck

Occasional visitor, a nomadic species. Freshwater. Grazes on aquatic vegetation and grasses.

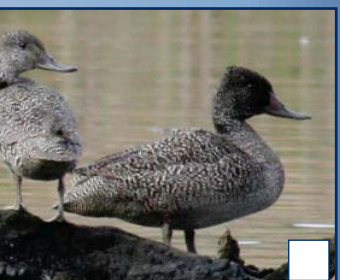
60cm



Australian Shelduck

Rare visitor. A large dark brown duck. Freshwater bodies and open pastureland. Grazes on grass and in shallow water.

68cm



Freckled Duck

Rare visitor. Most commonly seen 'loafing' on emergent logs and branches in freshwater bodies. Surface and filter feeder.

90cm



Purple Swamphen

Familiar black and blue waterbird with red shield and large bill. Grassland, reed beds and trees. Feeds on roots and shoots.

46cm



Dusky Moorhen

Common waterbird with orange shield and yellow-tipped beak when mature. Swampy margins and pools.

38cm



Eurasian Coot

White shield/beak and red eyes. Aquatic diving waterbird with lobed feet. Large flocks found. Large water bodies. Feeds by diving for aquatic vegetation.

40cm



Buff-banded Rail

Distinctive plumage. Can be shy and secretive, dashing to creekside vegetation when disturbed in open grassland.

70cm



Lewin's Rail

Rare, shy and secretive. Sometimes heard (grunts loudly) but seldom seen. Feeds on invertebrates in heavily vegetated waterways.

16cm



Spotless Crake

Small, dark and shy, may be seen skulking in dense reed beds or feeding on exposed mud.

20cm



Baillon's Crake

Australia's smallest crake, shy and easily disturbed. Feeds on small invertebrates in muddy fringes adjoining reed beds.

16cm



Australasian Spotted Crake

A large, robust crake seen when emerging from reed beds to feed on small invertebrates in shallow water.

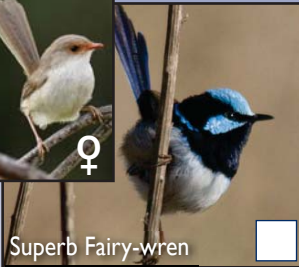
18cm

Ducks

Rails & Crakes

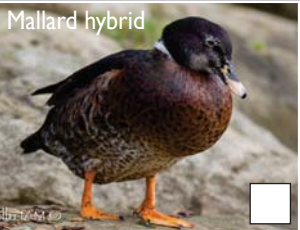
Other wetland birds

From small brown birds seen in reedbeds and damp grasslands through to Australia's only native swan. Keep an eye out for the Azure Kingfisher, either perched or seen as a bright blue flash as it flies along creeks and waterways.



Introduced Waterfowl

Many unwanted pets eventually end up in Australia's waterways and suburban parks. Extensive hybridisation by Mallards has decimated the Grey Duck in New Zealand.



Feeding ducks bread

Many people may be killing the ducks with kindness, as an oversupply of bread creates health problems and leads to polluted waterways.

Early Australian explorers had difficulty locating and mapping many waterways due to the extensive wetland systems that surrounded them. The vegetation formed a natural barrier, protecting a network and variety of habitats that supported rich aquatic ecosystems.

Widespread clearing and modification of land for agriculture, saw many swamps drained and a significant loss and clearing of wetlands. Introduced livestock, dogs, foxes, cats and fish such as Carp and Gambusia also had a devastating effect on native aquatic biodiversity. Today, pollution, coastal and urban development continue to threaten these wetlands.

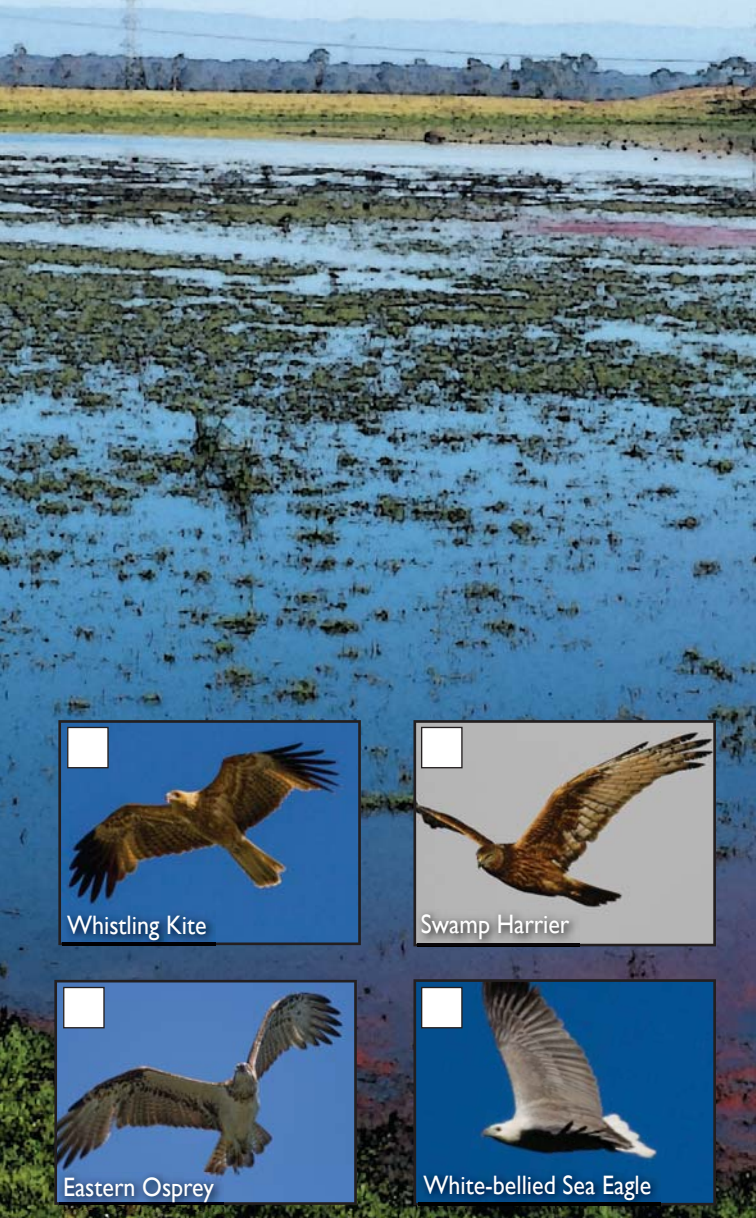
Migratory shorebirds or 'waders', are also featured. They rely on tidal wetlands, mudflats and estuaries to feed and refuel for their long journeys (up to 11,000 kms non-stop!!!) The Chinese-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and similar ones with Japan (JAMBA) and Korea (ROKAMBA) were set up to protect the East Asian flyway where industrialisation and reclamation projects have resulted accelerated habitat destruction and loss of these shorebirds.

Sydney's wetlands are precious few and with increased population growth, these special places need to be conserved for future generations. Use this brochure to identify YOUR wetland birds!



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WETLAND BIRDS
of the
SYDNEY REGION





Eastern Great Egret

Largest of the egret family, snake-like neck ID it from others. A stalker; hunts for fish in a vegetated creeks or tidal wetlands.

95cm



Intermediate Egret

Formerly known as 'plumed egret', non-breeding birds lack plumes. Uses stealth to hunt for frogs in vegetated shallows.

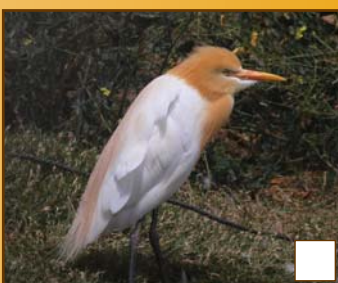
65cm



Little Egret

Quite delicate. Hunts for small fish by chasing them in shallow water and fast-flowing creeks. Often in rocky, open waterways with little vegetation.

60cm



Cattle Egret

Squat, white non-breeding plumage. Named 'Cattle' as it associates with livestock, snatching insects flushed in paddocks.

50cm



White-faced Heron

A common and widespread species. Adaptable, hunts for fish and invertebrates in a variety of suburban and rural wetlands.

65cm



White-necked Heron

A large, nomadic heron hunts for small aquatic animals and invertebrates in wet grassland and temporary wetlands.

90cm



Striated Heron

A small, shy heron found on coastal and inland waterways lined with mangrove or casuarina. Often seen flying low over water when disturbed.

50cm



Nankeen Night Heron

A small, shy nocturnal heron found on inland waterways, may be seen roosting in small groups in casuarina.

60cm



Australasian Bittern

Rare, shy and secretive. Semi-nocturnal, hides in thick, extensive reed beds. Hunts by stealth, heavy flight when flushed.

72cm



Black Bittern

Uncommon, shy and secretive. Semi-nocturnal, often flushed from thick creekside vegetation, or small wooded streams.

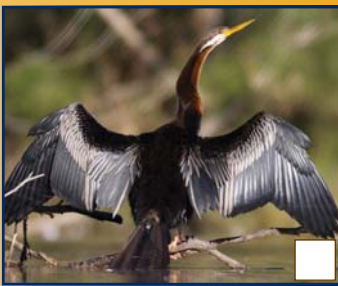
65cm



Black-backed Bittern

Also known as Little Bittern. This rare and secretive bittern hides in reed beds and dense freshwater vegetation. Hunts small fish.

30cm



Australasian Darter

Similar to, but unrelated to cormorants. Also called 'snake-bird', swims with body submerged. Prefers inland lakes, rivers and swamps.

90cm



Little Pied Cormorant

Widespread, common resident. Found in a wide variety of wetland habitats. Hunts by diving and swimming after fish.

60cm



Little Black Cormorant

Common resident. Uses a wide variety of wetlands. Often swims in feeding flocks that dive after fish shoals.

60cm



Great Cormorant

Largest cormorant. White throat patch useful for cooling and swallowing large fish. Found in most wetland habitats.

80cm



Pied Cormorant

Mainly coastal, this large cormorant is occasionally seen on larger inland waterways.

70cm



Australian White Ibis

Very common. Formally called Sacred Ibis, this wetland bird has adapted well to scavenging in urban areas.

70cm



Straw-necked Ibis

A 'country cousin' of the white ibis, known as farmer's friend, probing for insects in paddocks and pastureland.

70cm



Glossy Ibis

An irregular visitor to freshwater waterways and wetlands. Most aquatic ibis species, seen probing muddy margins and shallows for invertebrates.

68cm



Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Common visitor to inland freshwater wetlands. Unusual bill is used to sift for invertebrates.

80cm



Australasian Grebe

Common breeding resident. Pairs often seen on freshwater lakes and dams. Dives to feed on plant and animal material.

25cm



Hoary-headed Grebe

Uncommon. Occurs in flocks or 'rafts' and flies across water if disturbed. Likes inland and coastal wetlands.

30cm



Great-crested Grebe

Uncommon, found in large bodies of water; dives for feeding and defence. Breeds when emergent vegetation is present.

50cm



Royal Spoonbill

Common visitor to both fresh and saltwater wetlands. Unusual bill is used to sift muddy shallows for invertebrates.

70cm



Black-fronted Dotterel

Regular visitor breeding when conditions are right. Feeds along muddy or sandy fringes of shallow pools.

46cm



Red-kneed Dotterel

Regular visitor breeding when conditions are right. Feeds along muddy or sandy fringes of shallow pools.

18cm



Red-capped Plover

Summer migrant to sandy beaches and more rarely on inland waterways. Male has brighter red cap.

43cm



Pacific Golden Plover

CAMBA, JAMBA, ROKAMBA Irregular summer migrant shorebird that occurs in marshy grasslands and muddy shallows



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

JAMBA/CAMBA Summer migrant. Most common/widespread sandpiper. Feeds in shallow wetland fringes.

18cm



Pectoral Sandpiper

JAMBA/CAMBA Rare summer migrant. Uncommon, similar to Sharp-tailed Sandpiper but with distinct 'bib'.

18cm



Curlew Sandpiper

JAMBA/CAMBA/ ROKAMBA Rare summer migrant. A pale sandpiper with large downcurved bill, feeds in shallow water.

20cm



Marsh Sandpiper

JAMBA /CAMBA/ ROKAMBA Uncommon summer migrant. Smooth, pale grey plumage. Shallow inland lakes.

22cm



Black-winged Stilt

Common resident shorebird. Uses delicate bill to pick out invertebrates in shallow fresh and saltwater marshes.

37cm



Red-necked Avocet

Rare shorebird sifts with upturned beak in salt lakes, mudflats and shallow inland waters.

43cm



Latham's Snipe

JAMBA/CAMBA/ ROKAMBA Cryptic bird, often flushed from long grass and reed-beds. Probes mud for invertebrates.

25cm



Australian Painted Snipe

CAMBA Endemic to Australia, a rare and enigmatic species. Probes for invertebrates in vegetated swamps.

23cm



Silver Gull

Most widespread and well-known gull species and an adaptable urban scavenger. Prefers coastal habitat and inland waters.

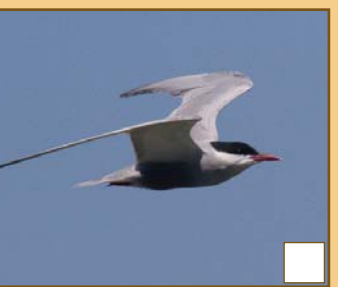
40cm



Caspian Tern

Rare summer visitor A large tern with a bright red bill, similar in size to a Silver Gull. Hovers and plunges into water when hunting small fish.

40cm



Whiskered Tern

An uncommon summer migrant. Often seen in estuaries or along waterways leading to inland lakes.

26cm



Bar-tailed Godwit

JAMBA/CAMBA/ ROKAMBA A large estuarine/ coastal shorebird. Has been recorded flying 11,000kms non-stop.

45cm

Ibis

Grebes

Gulls & Terns

Egrets, Herons & Bitterns

Cormorants

Spoonbills

Shorebirds (waders)