

Raptors

Noisy alarm calls are often the first indication of perched or flying raptors. More common in winter, raptors often ride high on thermals as the day warms up. Pictured below are eight of the 18 raptor species recorded in the Sydney region.



Black-shouldered Kite



Nankeen Kestrel



Collared Sparrowhawk



Brown Goshawk



Peregrine Falcon



Pacific Baza



Whistling Kite



Square-tailed Kite



Little Eagle



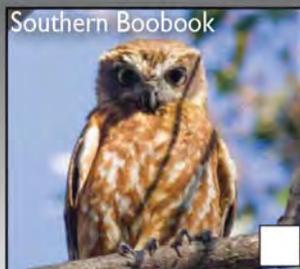
Wedge-tailed Eagle

Nocturnal Birds

They only come out at night! (or may be found roosting during the day). There are five owl species found in the Sydney region, but it is the owl-like Tawny Frogmouth that is most often encountered in suburban gardens.



Tawny Frogmouth



Southern Boobook

Introduced 'pests' ?

The Common (formally Indian) Myna has adapted well to the habitat created by urbanisation. The Rock Dove originally inhabited cliffs in Europe, and is now a familiar site in many city centres due to its close relationship with humans.



Common Myna



Rock Dove

Since European settlement over 90% of western Sydney's bushland (known as Cumberland Plain Woodland) has been cleared for timber and farming. Despite this, urban development, introduced predators and other non-native plants and animals continue to threaten the unique ecosystems found in fragmented habitat remnants.

The birds featured in this guide are 81 relatively common species found in Sydney you can use it to tick off the boxes or create a backyard list. Once you've seen all the birds in this leaflet (and probably many that aren't!) you may want to look for the other 365 species that occur in the Sydney region.



One way to 'tune in' is by listening the calls you hear when you first wake up. This will give you a good starting point, maybe pick out the Monochromes, then get to know your local patch, it's a lot of fun. You can always hone your skills by joining a club, attending outings or assisting in citizen science projects.

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A Photo Guide to The BIRDS of WESTERN SYDNEY



Crested Pigeon



Laughing Kookaburra



Masked Lapwing



Welcome Swallow



Scarlet Honeyeater

Tiny and fast, hard to see. The brightly coloured male often calls from tree tops. It whistles a sweet little tune

12cm



Eastern Spinebill

Look for this small, colourful honeyeater flitting around in branches or hovering like a hummingbird. Loud, rapid whistle.

14cm



Yellow-faced Honeyeater

A small, common honeyeater. A loud 'chirrup' or a small 'chip-chip' call in flight, often heard as migratory flocks fly overhead.

16cm



White-plumed Honeyeater

May be found in gardens. Look for grey-green honeyeater with a yellowish head and white streaks on the neck.

14cm



New Holland Honeyeater

A very adaptable heathland bird, these loud honeyeaters are now becoming more common in suburban gardens.

16cm



Noisy Miner

This aggressive colonial species drives out many smaller birds as natural bush habitats become landscaped parkland.

26cm



Bell Miner

Also known as the bellbird due to its chiming call. Olive green with orange/yellow feet. Expanding colonies can create problems.

26cm



Red Wattlebird

Has a loud, cackling call. Larger size, wattles and a yellow belly help ID this species from the Little Wattlebird.

28cm



Red-browed Finch

The most common of six Sydney finch species, four of which are native. Found in damp, grassy areas or creekside vegetation.

12cm



Superb Fairy-wren

Sometimes called Blue Wrens. Listen for high pitched squeaks or loud song in rough grassland. Females (inset) are plainer.

14cm



White-browed Scrubwren

The most common of Sydney's three scrubwren species. Likes to hide in dense, shrubby vegetation.

13cm



Silvereye

In winter, resident Sydney birds are joined by flocks from Tasmania with distinctive rufous flanks.

12cm



Grey Fantail

This common woodland bird is related to the Willie Wagtail and has the same bold disposition. Listen for a short high-pitched tune.

16cm



Yellow Thornbill

Smallest and most common of Sydney's five thornbill species. Listen for sharp chips and buzzes as they flit around in trees.

10cm



Spotted Pardalote

Look for a small bird foraging high in canopies or listen for a two-note whistle. Pronounced 'par-da-lote', also look for Striated Pardalote.

10cm



Mistletoebird

As the name suggests, this species is associated with mistletoe. Look for small birds flitting between mistletoe-infested trees. Females are grey.

10cm



Grey Shrike-thrush

Not a shrike or a thrush, but Sydney's only Shrike-thrush. Its distinctive call has a haunting quality.

26cm



Rufous Whistler

The male is quite distinctive, the female has a streaked chest. Loud whistles and 'eee-chong' call heard in summer months.

19cm



Golden Whistler

An altitudinal migrant to Sydney. Females and young birds are quite plain. Listen for loud 'seep' in winter months.

18cm



Crested Shrike-tit

A striking-looking bird with a black and white head, and a powerful beak for ripping at bark. Has a mournful whistle and a chuckling call.

18cm

Honeyeaters

Bush birds



Eastern Yellow Robin

This medium-sized bird is the most widespread of the six robin species recorded in Sydney. Repeated 'Tew' call is heard in mornings.

16cm



Olive-backed Oriole

A green bird, with a heavily streaked white chest, look for the red eye and beak. Call sounds like 'or-ee-ol'.

26cm



Fan-tailed Cuckoo

One of eight Sydney cuckoos, ranging from small striped **Bronze-cuckoos** to the huge, squawking **Channel-billed Cuckoo**.

26cm



Sacred and Azure Kingfisher

The Sacred is a summer visitor and has a 'barking' call. The smaller Azure is often seen as a blue flash along creeklines.

21cm / 17cm



Pacific Black Duck

Former name of Painted Duck more suits this handsome bird. 'Flashes' can be green or blue, depending on light.

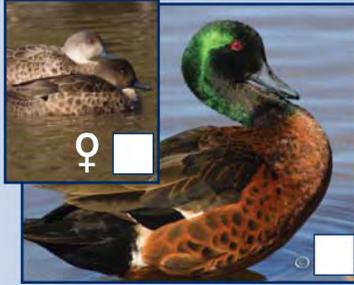
54cm



Australian Wood Duck

Formerly known as Maned Goose. Often nests high in tree hollows and has a distinctive 'weoww' call.

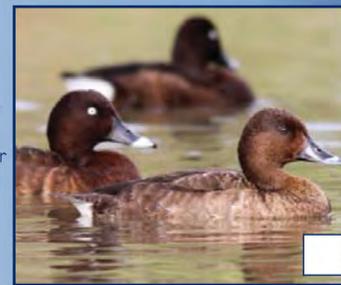
46cm



Chestnut and Grey Teal

A male Chestnut Teal is unmistakable. Females are similar to, but darker than both sexes of the **Grey Teal** (inset).

43cm



Hardhead

A nomadic duck that stays inland if conditions are favourable. Used to be known as 'white-eye', although females are brown.

54cm



Purple Swamphen

More of a blue/black sheen than purple, with a red 'shield'. Noisy and found in swampy reed-beds or long grass.

46cm



Dusky Moorhen

Smaller and shyer than the swamphen, its red bill tipped with yellow. Conspicuous outer white tail feathers from behind.

38cm



Eurasian Coot

A white 'shield' gives rise to the saying 'bald as a Coot'. Will often dive and can occur in huge flocks on large bodies of water.

40cm



Australasian Grebe

Most abundant of the three Sydney grebe species. An expert diver; it will submerge to escape danger.

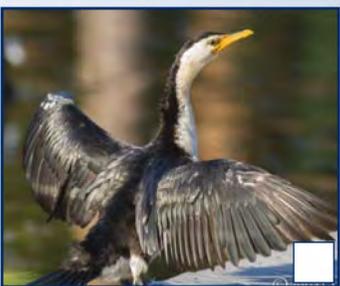
36cm



Great and Little Black Cormorant

Size and a white throat patch on its throat help identify the Great Cormorant from the Little Black Cormorant

82cm / 60cm



Little Pied Cormorant

Often seen on dams and inland waterways. Similar to the larger **Pied Cormorant** found mainly in coastal habitats.

60cm



White-faced Heron

The most common of the Sydneys four heron species. Pale grey with a variable amount of white on the face and neck.

68cm



Eastern Great Egret

The largest of Sydneys five egret species with a long snake-like neck. Look for the smaller **Cattle Egret** in drier paddocks.

90cm



Australian Reed Warbler

This small, brown bird often calls from deep within reed-beds. Listen for loud chattering song in summer months.

16cm



Black Swan

Australia's only native swan. Black, with a red bill and white on its wings, which look spectacular when seen in flight.

120cm



Australian Pelican

A common coastal bird. Groups of these impressive birds can be seen flying high, looking like squadrons of planes as they follow inland waterways.

170cm



Australian White Ibis

This familiar wetland bird has adapted well to scavenging in suburban Sydney. The similar **Straw-necked Ibis**, has dark wings.

70cm



Australian Raven

This intelligent and adaptable bird is not a crow, note 'beard-like' throat hackles. Australia has 2 crow and 3 raven species. Protracted wailing call.

52cm



Pied Currawong

Black with white on wings and rump, more apparent in a dipping flight. It has a chiming, bell-like call.

45cm



Australian Magpie

A familiar suburban bird, males may be aggressive during the breeding season. Has a wide variety of calls including a liquidy warble.

40cm



Grey Butcherbird

Uses its hook-tipped beak to impale and 'butcher' small animals. Has a loud, complex piping call.

21cm



Magpie-lark

Also known as a peewee, due to its loud, raucous call. Females (foreground) have different facial markings to males.

28cm



Willie Wagtail

A feisty little bird with a big attitude, it's in the eyebrows. Call can be a sweet whistle or a scolding chatter.

21cm



Pacific Koel

This summer visitors familiar 'coo-eee' call is well-known, also clacks and whoops. The males is black, females/young are mottled/cream.

42cm



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Not a cuckoo or a shrike, this handsome bird can be seen in suburban parklands. Also called a 'Bifcus' (BFCS) or 'shufflinging'.

33cm



Red-rumped Parrot

Often called grass parrots, the red rump is not always visible, females (background) are plainer. Has a fast, chirpy call.

26cm



Eastern Rosella

Extremely colourful, this beautiful rosella has a soft piping call. The Crimson Rosella is red with blue wings.

39cm



Rainbow Lorikeet

This colourful lorikeet has adapted well to suburban parks and gardens. Screechy call, with a fast flight.

30cm



Musk Lorikeet

A small, green lorikeet, red forehead not easy to see when foraging in foliage. Smaller size and faster, higher-pitched 'metallic' call help ID from Rainbow.

22cm



Spotted Dove

Introduced from China, these common garden birds have a typical cooing dove call.

32cm



Galah

Used to describe people displaying comical antics. This pink and grey cockatoo species is a common sight on suburban grasslands.

35cm



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

An iconic bird with a long yellow crest and a loud squawk. Also look for the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

28cm



Little Corella

A gentle whistling call which has a 'slicing' sound. The Long-billed Corella which has red 'slice' across its chest.

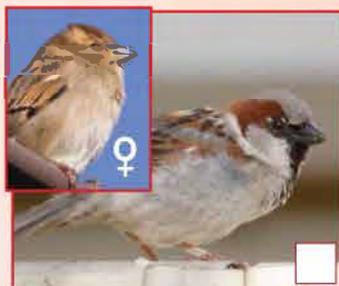
37cm



Common Blackbird

Brought from the UK for its beautiful song, heard in spring, other times it is often a simple high-pitched tweet.

25cm



House Sparrow

Once very common, this chirpy little bird from the UK has been subject to population crashes in recent years.

15cm



Common Starling

Introduced from the UK. Dark, metallic sheen and spots, young birds (inset) are plainer. Wide vocal range incl. high-pitched clicks.

23cm



Red-whiskered Bulbul

An striking-looking import from the Indian sub-continent. It's tuneful whistle is commonly heard in suburban gardens.

20cm

monochromes

parrots

Non-native